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(54) Title: COMPOSITIONS COMPRISING MIXTURES OF THERAPEUTIC PROTEINS AND METHODS OF PRODUCING THE SAME

(57) Abstract: Human cytokine mixtures produced by cytokine regulatory factor-overexpressing cells and methods of production are disclosed. The mixtures are prepared by culturing human cytokine-producing cells under conditions of cytokine regulatory factor overexpression, treating the cells to induce cytokine production, and isolating the mixtures of cytokines produced by the cells.

**COMPOSITIONS COMPRISING MIXTURES OF THERAPEUTIC PROTEINS AND
METHODS OF PRODUCING THE SAME**

5

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to compositions produced by human cell lines which comprise selected mixtures of cytokines for use in treating viral infections, cancers, inflammatory disorders, other cytokine-responsive disorders and methods for
10 producing the same.

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Background Of the Invention

15 Cytokines are useful in treating a number of human pathologies, including cancers, viral infections, and inflammation. Typically, cytokine treatment involves administering a single, isolated and generally recombinant cytokine, such as interferon-alpha (IFN-alpha), interferon-beta (IFN-beta) or tissue necrosis factor (TNF), etc. Although some treatment efficacy has been observed, the extent of improvement is suboptimal and the cytokines are
20 generally administered in combination with one or more additional treatment modalities.

In vivo cytokine-producing cells, such as monocytes, macrophages, B cells, dendritic cells, T_H1 and T_H2, mast cells, NK cells and bone-marrow stromal cells, typically produce complex mixtures of cytokines. Hence, it is not surprising that a single cytokine, when administered alone, is not optimally effective.

25 It would therefore be desirable to prepare, for clinical use, a cytokine composition comprising a mixture of cytokines, which is similar to a natural mixture of cytokines, produced *in vivo*. It would be particularly desirable to produce such a cytokine mixture in a cell culture system that produces and secretes high levels of cytokines.

Parent application Serial No. 09/595,338 and its provisional predecessor
30 application disclose a cell culture method of making high levels of cytokines, by growing cytokine-producing human cells under conditions of cytokine regulatory factor overexpression and cytokine induction. The present application is concerned with cytokine mixtures produced by a related method, to methods of obtaining improved cytokine compositions, and to methods of use of the compositions comprising mixtures of cytokines.

35

Summary of the Invention

The invention provides compositions comprising a mixture of human cytokines produced by culturing a human cell line capable of producing a mixture of cytokines and characterized by overexpression of a cytokine regulatory factor and/or an anti-apoptotic protein, treating the cell line to effect enhanced production of a mixture of cytokines and collecting the cytokines produced by the cells. The cell line may be treated by priming or priming and induction.

The cytokine regulatory factor overexpressing cell line may be generated by transformation with a cytokine regulatory factor- and/or an anti-apoptotic protein-encoding nucleic acid sequence or by subcloning and selection.

In one approach, the cytokines are collected, by copurification of selected cytokines.

In one aspect of the invention for use in cancer treatment, the cytokine mixture includes two or more cytokines selected from the group consisting of interleukin-2 (IL-2), interleukin-12 (IL-12), interleukin-15 (IL-15), interferon-alpha (IFN-alpha), interferon-beta (IFN-beta), interferon-gamma (IFN-gamma), interferon-omega (IFN-omega), tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF-alpha), natural killer enhancing factor (NKEF), natural killer cell stimulatory factor (NKSF), TNF-related-apoptosis-inducing-ligand (TRAIL) and granulocyte macrophage colony-stimulating factor (GM-CSF).

In another aspect of the invention for use in treating viral infection, the cytokine mixture includes two or more cytokines selected from the group consisting of interferon-alpha (IFN-alpha), interferon-beta (IFN-beta), interferon-gamma (IFN-gamma), interferon-omega (IFN-omega), transforming growth factor beta (TGF-beta), interleukin-8 (IL-8), interleukin-12 (IL-12) and granulocyte macrophage colony-stimulating factor (GM-CSF).

In another aspect of the invention for use in treating an inflammatory condition, the cytokine mixture includes two or more cytokines selected from the group consisting of interleukin-4 (IL-4), interleukin-5 (IL-5), interleukin-6 (IL-6), interleukin-10 (IL-10), interferon-beta (IFN-beta), interferon-gamma (IFN-gamma) and transforming growth factor beta (TGF-beta).

The invention further provides a method for producing a mixture of human cytokines in cell culture, which includes the steps of culturing a human cell line capable of producing the mixture of cytokines and characterized by overexpression of a cytokine regulatory factor and/or an anti-apoptotic protein, treating the cell line to effect enhanced production of a mixture of cytokines and collecting the cytokines produced by the cells. The cell line may be treated by priming or priming and induction.

In practicing the invention, the method may be used to produce selected mixtures of the cytokines set forth above for use in cancer treatment, for the treatment of viral infection and/or for the treatment of inflammatory conditions.

- 5 These and other objects and features of the invention will become more fully apparent from the following detailed description of the invention.

Brief Description of the Figures

Figure 1 shows the results of a propidium iodide assay for cell viability in parental
10 wild type (WT) and CrmA-expressing (CrmA-#2) MG-63 cells following superinduction and viral induction with Sendai virus.

Figure 2 shows interferon-beta production in parental wild type (WT) and CrmA-expressing (CrmA-#2) MG-63 cells following superinduction and Sendai virus treatment.

Figure 3 shows the effect of 0, 2mM, 4mM, and 8 mM 2-aminopurine (2-AP; a PKR
15 inhibitor) on interferon-beta production in CrmA-expressing (CrmA-#2) MG-63 cells following superinduction.

Figures 4A and 4B show the percentage of viable 6A, A9 and WT cell lines following cytokine induction by Sendai virus (4A) and poly IC (4B), respectively.

Figures 5A and 5B show the IFN-alpha levels produced in Namalwa cell
20 transformants 6A, A9 and WT cell lines following treatment with Sendai virus (5A) and poly IC (5B), respectively.

Figure 6 shows the coexpression of TNF-beta, IL-6 and IL-8 cytokines in cultures of a Namalwa wild type (WT) and a Namalwa PKR-overexpressing cell line Namalwa
PKR++41027 cells, subclone: 2A1.D1.G7.C1.A9.

25

Detailed Description of the Invention

I. Definitions

Unless otherwise indicated, all technical and scientific terms used herein have the same meaning as they would to one skilled in the art of the present invention. Practitioners
30 are particularly directed to Sambrook *et al.*, 1989, and Ausubel FM *et al.*, 1993, for definitions and terms of the art. It is to be understood that this invention is not limited to the particular methodology, protocols, and reagents described, as these may vary.

The term "vector", as used herein, refers to a nucleic acid construct designed for transfer between different host cells. An "expression vector" refers to a vector that has th
35 ability to incorporate and express heterologous DNA fragments in a foreign cell. Many

prokaryotic and eukaryotic expression vectors are commercially available. Selection of appropriate expression vectors is within the knowledge of those having skill in the art. A cloning or expression vector may comprise additional elements, e.g., the expression vector may have two replication systems, thus allowing it to be maintained in two organisms, e.g. in human cells for expression and in a prokaryotic host for cloning and amplification. Cloning and expression vectors also typically contain a selectable marker.

As used herein, the term "selectable marker-encoding nucleotide sequence" refers to a nucleotide coding sequence that is capable of expression in mammalian cells and where expression of the selectable marker confers to cells containing the expressed gene the ability to grow in the presence of a selective agent.

As used herein, the term "promoter" refers to a nucleic acid sequence that functions to direct transcription of a downstream gene. The promoter will generally be appropriate to the host cell in which the target gene is being expressed. The promoter together with other transcriptional and translational regulatory nucleic acid sequences ("control sequences") are necessary to express a given gene. In general, the transcriptional and translational regulatory sequences include, but are not limited to, promoter sequences, ribosomal binding sites, transcriptional start and stop sequences, translational start and stop sequences, and enhancer or activator sequences. A promoter may be constitutive or inducible and may be a naturally occurring, engineered or hybrid promoter. Hybrid promoters combine elements of more than one promoter, are generally known in the art, and are useful in practicing the present invention.

The term "control sequences" refers to DNA sequences necessary for the expression of an operably linked coding sequence in a particular host organism. The control sequences that are suitable for prokaryotes typically include a promoter, optionally an operator sequence, and a ribosome binding site. Eukaryotic cells are known to utilize promoters, polyadenylation signals, and enhancers.

A "heterologous" nucleic acid construct or sequence includes a portion of the sequence which is not native to the cell in which it is expressed. Heterologous, with respect to a control sequence refers to a control sequence (i.e. promoter or enhancer) that does not function in nature to regulate the same gene the expression of which it is currently regulating. Generally, heterologous nucleic acid sequences are not endogenous to the cell or part of the genome in which they are present, and have been added to the cell, by infection, transfection, microinjection, electroporation, or the like. A "heterologous" nucleic acid construct may contain a control sequence/DNA coding sequence combination that is

the same as, or different from a control sequence/DNA coding sequence combination found in the native cell.

As used herein, the term "operably linked" relative to a recombinant DNA construct or vector refers to nucleotide components of the recombinant DNA construct or vector that
5 are directly linked to one another for operative control of a selected coding sequence. Generally, "operably linked" DNA sequences are contiguous, and, in the case of a secretory leader, contiguous and in reading frame. However, enhancers do not have to be contiguous. Linking is accomplished by ligation at convenient restriction sites. If such sites do not exist, the synthetic oligonucleotide adaptors or linkers are used in accordance with
10 conventional practice.

As used herein, the term "gene" means a segment of DNA involved in producing a polypeptide chain, which may or may not include regions preceding and following the coding region, *e.g.* 5' untranslated (5' UTR) or "leader" sequences and 3' UTR or "trailer" sequences, as well as intervening sequences (introns) between individual coding
15 segments (exons).

"Cells transfected with a vector" refers to cells which have been exposed to a vector, and have taken up the vector, either as a self-replicating genetic element or by integration into the cell genome, in a manner that allows expression of the protein(s) encoded by the vector. The expression may be under the control of a constitutive
20 promoter in the vector, in which case protein expression occurs in the absence of an inducing agent, or under the control of an inducible promoter, requiring the presence of an inducer in the culture medium in order to achieve expression or high level expression of the vector gene.

As used herein, "recombinant" includes reference to a cell or vector, that has been
25 modified by the introduction of a heterologous nucleic acid sequence or that the cell is derived from a cell so modified. Thus, recombinant cells exhibit modified gene expression, such as expression of genes not found in identical form within the native (non-recombinant) cell or expression of native genes that are otherwise abnormally expressed, underexpressed or not expressed at all, as a result of deliberate human intervention.

30 As used herein, the terms "transformed", "stably transformed" or "transgenic" with reference to a mammalian cell means the mammalian cell has a non-native (heterologous) nucleic acid sequence integrated into its genome which is maintained through two or more generations.

As used herein, the term "expression" refers to the process by which a polypeptide
35 is produced based on the nucleic acid sequence of a gene. The process typically includes

both transcription and translation, but in some cases may refer to transcription in the absence of translation.

The term "cytokine regulatory factor expression" refers to transcription and translation of a cytokine regulatory factor gene, the products of which include precursor
5 RNA, mRNA, polypeptide, post-translation processed polypeptide, and derivatives thereof, and including cytokine regulatory factors from other species such as murine or simian enzymes.

It follows that the term "PKR expression" refers to transcription and translation of a PKR encoding nucleic acid sequence, the products of which include precursor RNA,
10 mRNA, polypeptide, post-translation processed polypeptide, and derivatives thereof, and including PKRs from other species such as murine or simian enzymes.

As used herein, the terms "biological activity" and "biologically active", refer to the activity attributed to a particular protein in a cell line in culture. It will be appreciated that the "biological activity" of such a protein may vary somewhat dependent upon culture
15 conditions and is generally reported as a range of activity. Accordingly, a "biologically inactive" form of a protein refers to a form of the protein that has been modified in a manner which interferes with a known activity of the protein.

As used herein, the terms "biological activity of a cytokine regulatory factor " and "biologically active cytokine regulatory factor" refer to any biological activity associated with
20 the a particular cytokine regulatory factor or any fragment, derivative, or analog of that cytokine regulatory factor, e.g., enzymatic activity, etc.

As used herein, the terms "normal level of cytokine regulatory factor activity" and "normal level of cytokine regulatory factor expression" refer to the level of cytokine regulatory factor activity or expression, determined to be present in unmodified, uninduced,
25 unprimed or uninfected cells of a particular type, e.g., the parental cell line of a particular type. It will be appreciated that such "normal" cytokine regulatory factor activity or expression, is reported as a range of cytokine regulatory factor activity or expression that is generally observed for a given type of cells which have not been modified by introduction of a cytokine regulatory factor-encoding nucleic acid sequence or selected for cytokine
30 regulatory factor overexpression.

It follows that the terms "biological activity of PKR" and "biologically active PKR" refer to any biological activity associated with PKR, or a fragment, derivative, or analog of PKR, such as enzymatic activity, specifically including autophosphorylation activity and kinase activity involving phosphorylation of substrates such as eukaryotic translation
35 initiation factor 2 (eIF-2) and transcription factors such as NF- κ B.

The range of "normal" cytokine regulatory factor activity or expression may vary somewhat dependent upon culture conditions. For example, the U937 cell line may have a normal range of cytokine regulatory factor activity which differs from the normal range of cytokine regulatory factor activity for the Namalwa cell line. It follows that overexpression of cytokine regulatory factor means an expression level which is above the normal range of cytokine regulatory factor expression generally observed for a given type of cells which have not been modified by introduction of a cytokine regulatory factor-encoding nucleic acid sequence or selected for cytokine regulatory factor overexpression, are unstimulated (not primed or induced) and are uninfected.

Accordingly, "overexpression" of cytokine regulatory factor means a range of cytokine regulatory factor activity, expression or production which is greater than that generally observed for a given type of cells which have not been modified by introduction of a vector comprising the coding sequence for PKR or selected for PKR overexpression, are unstimulated (not primed or induced) and are uninfected.

In one preferred aspect, cytokine regulatory factor overexpression means a level of cytokine regulatory factor activity, expression or production that is at least 125% (1.25-fold or 1.25X), preferably at least 150%, 200%, 300% or 400%, or 500% or more greater than the normal level of cytokine regulatory factor activity, expression or production for the same cell line under the particular culture conditions employed. In other words, a cell line that over expresses a cytokine regulatory factor typically exhibits a level of cytokine regulatory factor production or expression that is at least 1.25-fold and preferably 1.5-fold (1.5X), 2-fold (2X), 3-fold (3X), 4-fold (4X), 5-fold (5X) or more greater than the level of cytokine regulatory factor expression or production typically exhibited by the same type of cells which have not been selected, modified, primed or treated in a manner effective result in cytokine regulatory factor overexpression.

In some cases, a cell line that over expresses a cytokine regulatory factor such as PKR exhibits a level of cytokine regulatory factor expression or production that is 10-fold (10X) or more greater than the level of cytokine regulatory factor expression or production typically exhibited by the same type of cells under the particular culture conditions employed and which have not been selected, modified, primed or treated in a manner effective result in cytokine regulatory factor overexpression.

As used herein, the terms "normal level of cytokine" and "normal level of protein", relative to activity, expression, and production, refer to the level of cytokine or other protein activity, expression or production, determined to be present in parental cells of a particular type which have not been selected, modified, primed or treated in a manner effective result

in cytokine regulatory factor overexpression. Examples include, a wild type ("parental") cell line which has not been selected, primed or treated in a manner to result in enhanced cytokine regulatory factor activity, expression or production, and a cell line which does not comprise an introduced cytokine regulatory factor coding sequence. It will be appreciated
5 that such "normal" cytokine or other protein activity, expression, or production, is reported as a range of activity, expression, or production, typically observed for a given type of cells and may vary somewhat dependent upon culture conditions.

The terms an "enhanced level of" and "above normal level of" relative to cytokine or protein activity, expression or production may be used interchangeably. The terms refer to
10 a level of cytokine or protein activity, expression or production that is at least 125%, (1.25-fold or 1.25X), preferably at least 150%, 200%, 300% or 400%, or 500% or more greater than the level of cytokine or protein activity, expression or production exhibited by parental cells of the same cell line under the particular culture conditions employed, where the parental cells have not been selected, modified, primed or treated in a manner effective to
15 result in an increase in cytokine or protein activity, expression, or production. In some cases, the increase in cytokine or protein activity, expression, or production is 10-fold (10X) or more greater than that of the parental cell line.

As used herein, the term "inhibit apoptotic cell death", means to partially or completely inhibit the cell death process over the time period a cell line is cultured for the
20 purpose of cytokine or other protein expression or production. Such inhibition generally means the amount of apoptotic cell death is decreased by at least 20%, preferably by at least 50% and more preferably by 80% or more relative to the amount of apoptotic cell death observed in a cell line which has not been modified in a manner effective to inhibit apoptosis.

25 The term "proteins that inhibit apoptosis" refers to proteins that, when expressed in a cell, inhibit apoptosis, and in particular, apoptosis associated with cytokine regulatory factor overexpression and/or cytokine induction. Examples of proteins effective to inhibit apoptosis include, but are not limited to, CrmA, Bcl-2a, Bcl-X_L, a modified form of eukaryotic translation initiation factor 2 alpha (eIF-2 alpha) and eukaryotic translation
30 initiation factor (eIF-3), a modified form of Fas-associated death domain (FADD), a modified form of Bcl-X_S, a modified form of Bcl-2-homologous antagonist/killer (BAK) and a modified form of BAX, preferably Bcl-2a or Bcl-X_L.

"Overexpression" of CrmA, Bcl-2 or Bcl-X_L, respectively, means a range of CrmA, Bcl-2 or Bcl-X_L activity or expression which is greater than that generally observed for a

given type of cells which have not been transfected with a vector encoding CrmA, Bcl-2 or Bcl-X_L, and which are stimulated to undergo apoptosis.

"Cytokines" refers to a group of low-molecular-weight regulatory proteins that regulate the intensity and duration of the immune response by exerting a variety of effects
5 on lymphocytes and other immune cells.

"Cytokine-producing cells" refers to cells, typically blood cells, that secrete cytokines *in vivo*, and also in cell culture. Such cells include monocytes, macrophages, dendritic cells, B cells, endothelial cells, epithelial cells, T_H1 and T_H2 (T-helper cells), NK (natural killer) cells, eosinophils mast cells, bone-marrow cells, fibroblasts, keratinocytes,
10 osteoblast-derived cells, melanocytes, platelets, various other immune system cells, pancreatic parenchymal cells, glial cells and tumor cells derived from such cell types.

The terms "modifying" and the term "cell line modification" as used herein relative to a cultured human cell line refer to introducing a heterologous nucleic acid sequence that encodes a cytokine regulatory factor and/or a heterologous nucleic acid sequence that
15 encodes an anti-apoptotic protein into a parental human cell line. The coding sequence in the heterologous nucleic acid construct may be of heterologous or autologous origin.

"Selecting" cytokine regulatory factor overexpressing cells generally refers to subcloning, screening and selecting for cells that overexpress one or more cytokine regulatory factors and growing the cells to produce a cytokine regulatory factor
20 overexpressing cell line.

Screening typically includes functional assays for biological activity, protein assays and assays for cytokine regulatory factor mRNA, as further described below.

The term "priming" as used herein relative to a cytokine regulatory factor overexpressing cell line typically refers to exposing the cells to any of a number of agents,
25 such as phorbol myristate acetate (PMA) or interferon- β .

The terms "induction" and "inducing" as used herein relative to a cytokine regulatory factor overexpressing cell line typically refer to exposing cells to a microbial inducing agent, such as Sendai virus, encephalomyocarditis virus, Herpes simplex virus or Newcastle Disease Virus; or exposing the cells to at least one non-microbial inducing
30 agent selected from the group consisting of poly(I):poly(C) (poly IC), or poly r(I):poly r(C) (poly rIC), heparin, dextran sulfate, cyclohexamide, Actinomycin D, sodium butyrate, calcium ionophores, phytohemagglutinin (PHA), lipopolysaccharide (LPS) and derivatives thereof, such as 3-deacyl LPS, and chondroitin sulfate. Specific examples of inducing agents include, surface roughness for the induction of prostaglandin E2, titanium particles

for induction of TGF-beta, silicon nitride for induction of TNF-alpha, hypoxia for induction of EPO and VEGF, and IL-1-alpha, TNF-alpha and TNF-beta for induction of osteoprotegerin.

The terms "treating" and "treated", as used herein relative to a cytokine regulatory factor overexpressing cell line generally refers to induction, but may be used with reference
5 to priming and/or induction and/or exposure to an additional agent, e.g., DEAE Dextran.

The term "cytokine mixture" as used herein refers to a composition comprising two or more cytokines produced by a human cell line.

The terms "treating", "treatment" and "therapy" as used herein relative to a human subject or patient refer to curative therapy, prophylactic therapy, and preventative therapy.

10

II. Cytokine Regulatory Factors

A number of factors are known to be involved in the induction and/or enhanced expression of cytokines in cells, e.g., human cells. These factors include cytokine- and other protein-specific transcriptional regulatory factors, e.g. interferon regulatory factors
15 (IRF-1; IRF-3 and IRF-7), cytokine receptors, nuclear factor κ B (NF- κ B), activator protein-1 (AP-1), nuclear factor IL-6 (NF-IL6), and in particular, PKR.

Enhancing the expression or activity of any of these factors will generally result in higher than normal expression of one or more cytokine-encoding genes.

PKR is used as herein as an example of a protein capable of regulating cytokine and other
20 protein expression; however, it will be understood that the invention contemplates any of a number of cytokine and protein enhancing factors (designated herein as "cytokine regulatory factors" or "CRF"), e.g., protein kinase C (PKC) inducers, TNF- α , GM-CSF, EGF and PDGF, G-CSF, TGF, TNF-alpha or TNF-beta, IL-1, IFNs (IFN-alpha, IFN-beta, IFN-gamma) or chemokines (IL-8, Macrophage inflammatory proteins [MIP-1a & -1b] and
25 monocyte chemotactic proteins [MCPs]); other cellular signaling factors such as PMA, calcium ionophores, sodium butyrate or endotoxin; polyI: C, double-stranded RNA or viral analogs; PHA, cellular stress signals that can activate PKR, including heat shock, pathogen infection, e.g. viral infection; and any factor that enhances expression of a cytokine regulatory factor resulting in enhanced cytokine production.

30 By increasing the expression/activity of a cytokine regulatory factor in human cells, cytokine production can be increased. Human cell cultures that express a higher constitutive level of the cytokine regulatory factor, or in which cytokine regulatory factor expression can be induced to higher levels are therefore useful for the production of mixtures of cytokines.

The methods of the invention rely on the use of cells that overexpress a cytokine regulatory factor, with no particular method of cytokine regulatory factor overexpression required.

Various functions have been attributed to PKR, including, phosphorylation of
5 eukaryotic initiation factor-2 (eIF-2 α), which, once phosphorylated, leads to inhibition of protein synthesis (Hershey, *et al.*, 1991). This particular function of PKR has been suggested to be one of the mechanisms responsible for mediating the antiviral and anti-proliferative activities of IFN- α and IFN- β . An additional biological function for PKR is its putative role as a signal transducer, *for example*, by
10 phosphorylation of I κ B, resulting in the release and activation of nuclear factor κ B (NF- κ B) (Kumar A *et al.*, 1994).

It has previously been demonstrated that PKR mediates the transcriptional activation of IFN expression (Der D and Lau AS, 1995). Consistent with this observation, suppression of endogenous PKR activity by transfecting U937 cells with antisense to PKR
15 or expression of a PKR-deficient mutant resulted in diminished induction of IFN in response to viral infection (Der D and Lau AS, 1995).

It has also been demonstrated that cells transfected with a PKR-encoding nucleic acid sequence exhibit enhanced interferon production, as described in co-owned U.S. Pat. No. 6,159,712.

20 It has also been suggested that PKR may function as a tumor suppressor and inducer of apoptosis. (See, e.g., Clemens MJ *et al.*, 1999; Yeung, Lau *et al.*, 1996; Koromilas *et al.*, 1992). Recent results indicate that expression of an active form of PKR triggers apoptosis, possibly through upregulation of the Fas receptor (Donze O, *et al.*, 1999).

25 The invention employs cytokine-producing cells that overproduce a cytokine regulatory factor such as PKR by virtue of introduction of a cytokine regulatory factor-encoding nucleic acid sequence or by culturing non-transformed cells, or cells transformed with an apoptosis-inhibiting gene only, under conditions which produce above-normal levels of one or more endogenous cytokine regulatory factors. This may be accomplished
30 by selection, priming and/or further treatment, such as induction.

With respect to PKR, additional approaches to enhanced production/expression include inactivation or decreasing the levels of the PKR-inhibiting factor, p58 which normally inhibits PKR activity. Mutation, modification or gene-targeting ablation of p58 has been shown to result in enhanced PKR activity (Barber, G.N. *et al.*, 1994). Further,
35 natural, synthetic or recombinant activators of PKR that can enhance the expression of

PKR, e.g., the PKR activator protein, PACT (Patel, R.C. and Sen, G.C., 1998), may be employed.

III. Methods And Compositions Of The Invention

5 A. Combinations of Cytokines

Cytokines elicit their biological activities by binding to their cognate receptors followed by signal transduction leading to stimulation of various biochemical processes. In some cases, the expression of such receptors is regulated by specific signals. A cytokine may be involved in positive or negative feedback loops and thereby regulate the
10 expression of the receptor for the same or a different cytokine. Such receptors may be the same type of cell that produces the cytokine or a different type of cell. Cytokines serve to mediate and regulate immune and inflammatory responses.

It will be appreciated that the cellular source of cytokines is a distinguishing characteristic of each individual cytokine and that an individual cytokine may be produced
15 by multiple diverse types of cells. In addition, a given cytokine (1) may act on more than one type of cells, (2) may have more than one effect on the same cell, (3) may have an activity shared with another cytokine, and (4) may influence the synthesis or effect of other cytokines, e.g., by antagonizing, or synergizing the effects thereof.

The methods described herein find utility in the production of a mixture of two or
20 more cytokines for therapeutic uses, and in particular, a cytokine mixture for use in treating cancer, viral infection, or inflammation, as detailed in co-owned U.S. Application Serial No. 09/660,468, expressly incorporated by reference herein.

Exemplary cytokines the expression of which may be increased using the methods of the invention include, but are not limited to, interferons (α , β and γ), interleukins (IL-1 α ,
25 IL-1 β , IL-1ra, IL-2 and IL-4 through 13), tumor necrosis factors alpha and beta (TNF- β) and their respective soluble receptors (sTNF-R), the colony stimulating factors (granulocyte colony stimulating factor, G-CSF; granulocyte-macrophage colony stimulating factor, GM-CSF; and IL-3), the angiogenic factors (fibroblast growth factor, FGF; vascular endothelial growth factor, VEGF; and platelet-derived growth factors 1 and 2 (PDGF-1 and -2) and the
30 anti-angiogenic factors (angiostatin and endostatin).

In summary, the invention provides a cytokine mixture produced by a cell line characterized by expression of a cytokine regulatory factor and/or expression of an anti-apoptotic protein which is cultured under appropriate conditions, modified, selected, primed and/or treated in a manner effective to result in production of two or more cytokines. The
35 invention further provides mixtures of cytokines produced by such a cell line. In a preferred

approach, the cytokines are produced by the cell line, secreted into the medium and isolated (purified from unwanted components also present in the cell culture medium).

- Preferred mixtures include, but are not limited to, (1) interferon alpha (IFN- α) and interferon beta (IFN- β); (2) interferon alpha, interferon beta and interferon gamma (IFN- γ);
- 5 (3) interferon alpha and interferon gamma; (4) interferon beta and interferon gamma; (5) one of interferon alpha, interferon beta and interferon gamma plus tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF- α); (6) one of interferon alpha, interferon beta and interferon gamma plus TNF-beta (TNF- β); (5) one of interferon alpha, interferon beta and interferon gamma plus interleukin-2 (IL-2); (6) interferon gamma and interleukin-1b (IL-1b); (7) interferon gamma
- 10 and macrophage colony stimulating factor (M-CSF); (8) interferon gamma, interleukin-4 and tumor necrosis factor-alpha; (9) interleukin-2 and interleukin-12; (10) one of interleukin-2, interleukin-4 or interleukin-6 and granulocyte-macrophage colony stimulating factor (GM-CSF); (11) granulocyte-macrophage colony stimulating factor, interleukin-2 and interferon alpha or interferon beta.
- 15 One preferred anti-cancer or anti-tumor composition includes two or more cytokines selected from among IL-1-alpha, IL-1-beta, IL-2, IL-4, IL-6, IL-12, IL-15, IFN-alpha, IFN-beta, IFN-gamma, oncostatin, TNF-alpha, TNF-beta, GM-CSF, G-CSF, NKEF, NKSF, TRAIL and M-CSF, more preferably selected from among IL-2, IL-12, IL-15, IFN-alpha, IFN-beta, TNF-alpha, natural killer cell enhancement factor (NKEF), natural killer cell
- 20 stimulatory factor (NKSF), TNF-related-apoptosis-inducing-ligand (TRAIL) and GM-CSF. The composition is preferably treated to remove cytokine(s) selected from among IL-3, IL-5, IL-7, IL-8, IL-9, IL-10, IL-11, IL-1 and TGF-beta. For use in treating viral infection, the composition preferably includes two or more cytokines selected from among IFN-alpha, IFN-beta, IFN-gamma, TGF-beta, IL-3, IL-7, IL-8, IL-12, and GM-CSF, more preferably
- 25 selected from among IFN-alpha, IFN-beta, TGF-beta, IL-8, IL-12, and GM-CSF. The composition is preferably treated to remove cytokine(s) selected from among IL-1, IL-2, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-9, IL-10, IL-11, IL-13, TNF-alpha, TNF-beta, and oncostatin.

- For use in treating an inflammatory condition, the composition preferably includes two or more cytokines selected from among IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-10, IL-11, IL-13, IL-1i, IFN-beta, TGF-beta and IFN-gamma, and preferably selected from among IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-
- 30 10, IFN-beta, IFN-gamma and TGF-beta. The composition is preferably treated to remove from the composition, cytokine(s) selected from among IL-1, IL-2, IL-3, IL-7, IL-8, IL-9, IL-12, TNF-alpha, TNF-beta, TGF-beta, and oncostatin.

- The cytokine mixtures or compositions of the invention find utility in the treatment of
- 35 cancer, viral infection or inflammation. In general, the total cytokine dose administered is

adjusted so that any one cytokine component is administered at a lower dose, e.g., 10%-50% of the normal dose of that cytokine when administered alone.

B. Cells and Culture Conditions for Production of Cytokine Mixtures

The invention relies on human-cytokine producing cells that are selected for their
5 ability to produce a desired mixture of cytokines, e.g., a mixture suitable for cancer treatment, treatment of viral infection, or treatment of inflammation.

Thus, the present invention provides cell lines comprising cells that have been selected, modified, primed and/or primed and induced in a manner effective to result in enhanced production of mixtures of cytokines relative to the corresponding parental cell
10 line (which is unmodified, unselected, unprimed and uninduced).

Examples of parental cell lines for use in the production of mixtures of cytokines include, but are not limited to B cells (for example Namalwa, 293, CCRF-SB or Raji cells), monocytic cells (U937, THP-1) Flow 1000 cells, Flow 4000 cells, fibroblasts (MRC-5, WI-38, FS-4, FS-7, T98G and MG-63 cells), T cells (CCRF-CEM, and Jurkat cells) and other
15 cells.

Examples of parental cell lines for use in the production of mixtures of cytokines include, but are not limited to, cells of the monocyte/macrophage lineage, lymphocytic lineage cells including T- and B-cells, mast cells, fibroblasts, bone marrow cells, keratinocytes, osteoblast-derived cells, melanocytes, endothelial cells, platelets, various
20 other immune system cells, lung epithelial cells, pancreatic parenchymal cells, glial cells and tumor cells derived from such cell types. Major cellular sources for a variety of cytokines are provided in Table 1, below. Cell lines derived from these cells are suitable candidates for use in producing cytokine mixtures using the methods described herein.

Table 1. Cellular Source of Various Cytokines

Cytokine	Molecular Weight (kD)	Major cellular sources
Interferons		
IFN- α (>12 subtypes)	16-20	macrophages, fibroblasts, lymphoblastoid cells
IFN- β	20	fibroblasts macrophages, epithelial cells
IFN- γ	20-25	T-cells, NK cells, dendritic cells
Tumor Necrosis Factors		
TNF- α	17	monocyte/macrophages, fibroblasts, T-cells
TNF- β (lymphotoxin)	25	T-cells, B-cells
Interleukins		
IL-1 α & IL-1 β	17.5	monocyte/macrophages, endothelial cells, fibroblasts, keratinocytes
IL-2	15-17	T-cells
IL-4	15-19	T-cells, mast cells
IL-5	50-60	T-cells, mast cells
IL-6	26	monocyte/macrophages, fibroblasts, T-cells
IL-7	25	bone marrow cells
IL-8	6-8	monocytes, fibroblasts, chondrocytes, endothelial cells, keratinocytes
IL-9	32-39	T-cells
IL-10	19	T-cells
IL-11	23	bone marrow cells
IL-12 p35 & p40	35,40	B-cells, lymphoblastoid cells
Colony Stimulating Factors		
IL-3	20-26	T-cells, mast cells
G-CSF	20	monocyte/macrophages, fibroblasts, endothelial cells
GM-CSF	22	T-cells, fibroblasts, endothelial cells
M-CSF	70-90	monocytes, fibroblasts, endothelial cells
Growth factors		
Epidermal growth factor	6	macrophages
Fibroblast growth factors (acidic & basic)	14-18	platelets, macrophages, endothelial cells
Platelet-derived growth factors 1 & 2	14-18	platelets, monocyte/macrophages, endothelial cells
TGF- α	5-8	macrophage
TGF- β	25	platelets, monocyte/macrophages, T-cells, fibroblasts, endothelial cells
Chemokines		
Macrophage inflammatory proteins 1 α , 1 β	8	monocytes, fibroblasts, T cells
RANTES	9.5	T-cells

- Human cells suitable for producing a mixture of cytokines for use in treating cancer
- 5 (including solid tumors, melanomas, leukemias, and other types of cancers or neoplasms) include B-lymphocytes (B-cells), monocytic cells, and T helper cells. Examples of isolated B-cell parent cell lines that are suitable for *in vitro* culturing are Namalwa, 293 and Raji cells. Suitable monocytic parent cell lines are U937 and THP-1 cells. T cells, including T-

helper cells 1 and 2 (T_H1 , T_H2) that are available for *in vitro* culturing include Jurkat, and CEM cells.

Human cytokine-producing cells suitable for producing a mixture of cytokines suitable for use in treating viral infection (including infection by HIV, hepatitis viruses, such as HBV, and HCV virus, and other human-pathogenic viruses) include, generally B-lymphocytes (B-cells) and fibroblast cell lines. Examples of isolated B-cell parent cell lines that are suitable for *in vitro* culturing are given above. Suitable fibroblast parent cell lines are MRC5, HFF, and WI-38 cells.

Human cytokine-producing cells suitable for producing a mixture of cytokines suitable for use in treating inflammation (including asthma, allergies, and rheumatoid arthritis) generally T-cells, including T-helper cells, as exemplified above.

In general, U937 cells are preferred for production of FGF and sTNF-R; Jurkat cells are preferred for production of IL-3 and TNF-beta; fibroblasts are preferred for production of FGF and angiostatin; U937 cells are preferred for production of TNF-alpha, IFN-alpha, IL-6 and homologues thereof; CD4 expressing cells including Jurkat and HUT are preferred for production of TNF-beta; and T and B-cells including Jurkat and Namalwa are preferred for production of IL-8 and homologues thereof.

Thus, the present invention provides cell lines comprising cells which have been selected, modified, primed and/or primed and induced in a manner effective to result in enhanced production of mixtures of cytokines as compared to the corresponding parental cell line.

The selected cells are cultured under conditions of cytokine regulatory factor and cytokine overexpression. Cells useful for the production of mixtures of cytokines are cultured under conditions typically employed to culture the parental cell line. Generally, the cells are cultured in a standard medium containing physiological salts and nutrients, such as standard cell culture media RPMI, MEM, IMEM DMEM, or F12 which may be supplemented with 0.1-10% serum, such as fetal bovine serum. Alternatively, serum free and/or animal-derived protein-free or protein-free medium may be used, a number of examples of which are commercially available such as Pro293 for example. Culture conditions are also standard, e.g., cultures are incubated at 37°C in stationary or roller cultures until desired levels of cytokine production is achieved. For large scale production, fermentors may be used with cells grown in batch or a perfusion mode. An exemplary medium and culture conditions for cytokine production from Namalwa cells is described in Example 3.

In general, preferred culture conditions for a given cell line may be found in the scientific literature and/or from the source of the cell line such as the American Type Culture Collection. Preferred culture conditions for primary cell lines, such as fibroblasts, B-cells, T-cells, endothelial cells, dendritic cells, and monocytes are also
5 generally available in the scientific literature. After cell growth has been established, the cells are exposed to conditions effective to cause or permit the overexpression of one or more cytokine regulatory factors, primed and/or primed and induced for enhanced production of mixtures of cytokines.

In cases where an exogenously provided cytokine regulatory factor-encoding
10 nucleic acid sequence is under the control of an inducible promoter, the appropriate inducing agent, e.g., a metal salt or antibiotic, is added to the medium at a concentration effective to induce cytokine expression/production.

IV. Enhanced Cytokine Production.

15 A. Enhanced Cytokine Regulatory factor Expression

By increasing the expression/activity of a cytokine regulatory factor, such as PKR in human cells, the production of mixtures of human cytokines can be increased. Human cell cultures that express a higher constitutive level of a cytokine regulatory factor, or in which cytokine regulatory factor expression can be induced to higher levels are therefore useful
20 for the production of mixtures of cytokines.

Once a cell line that over expresses or overproduces a cytokine regulatory factor is obtained that cell line may be further primed and/or induced in a manner effective to result in an increase in cytokine production.

In one preferred approach, the method comprises (a) culturing human cells
25 capable of overexpression of a cytokine regulatory factor; (b) introducing a heterologous nucleic acid construct comprising the coding sequence for a cytokine regulatory factor, or an analog or homologue thereof into the cells, under conditions sufficient to overexpress the cytokine regulatory factor; selecting or screening for cells that have incorporated the heterologous nucleic acid and (c) priming; and (d) treating the cells as appropriate to
30 induce the expression of a cytokine gene.

In one preferred embodiment, the cytokine-regulatory factor is PKR and the cells are inducible for PKR overexpression. In a preferred aspect, cells capable of over expressing PKR are primed and/or induced in a manner which results in a higher level of PKR expression or production.

The combination of cell line selection, modification, culture conditions, priming or priming and induction provided by the present invention results in significantly enhanced cytokine production by a given cell line, e.g., an increase that represents an increase of at least 200% (2-fold or 2X), 250% (2.5-fold or 2.5X), 400% 3-fold or 3X), 400% (4-fold or 4X), 500% (5-fold or 5X), and preferably 1000% (10-fold or 2X), or more cytokine production or expression relative to the level of cytokine production or expression exhibited by the same cell line under the same culture conditions absent selection, modification, priming and induction, as described herein. In some cases, the methods of the invention result in an increase in cytokine production that is 100-fold (100X) to 1000-fold (1000X) or more.

Accordingly, one aspect of the present invention pertains to an isolated population of cells, i.e. a cell line, which expresses or produces a mixture of cytokines. The term "population" as used herein refers to a group of two or more cells, which have been derived from a single parental cell.

Problems typically associated with production of cytokines in cell culture, for example low yield from non-recombinant mammalian systems, improper glycosylation, lack of appropriate post translational modification or misfolding of proteins produced in microbial systems are eliminated in the methods of the present invention.

B. Inhibition of Apoptosis

Apoptosis or programmed cell death is a cell-intrinsic suicide process whereby unwanted individual cells undergo a genetically determined program, culminating in chromosomal DNA fragmentation, degradation of RNA and eventual cell death (reviewed in Orrenius 1995; Stellar 1995; Vaux 1993). Once committed to apoptosis, the cells undergo new rounds of protein synthesis and various morphological/physiological changes including cytoplasmic condensation, nuclear chromatin condensation, membrane blebbing, and eventual DNA degradation, detected as a characteristic oligonucleosomal ladder.

TNFs, as prototypes proinflammatory cytokines, are cytotoxic proteins produced by activated immune cells during the processes of pathogen elimination, antiviral activities, and tumor destruction. However, high levels of TNF-alpha *in vivo* can be detrimental since TNF-alpha induces metabolic disturbances, wasting, and suppression of hematopoiesis. At the cellular level, TNF-alpha induces production of superoxide radicals, activation of lysosomal enzymes (Larrick, *et al.*, 1990; Liddil, *et al.*, 1989), and fragmentation of DNA by the activation of endonuclease activity (Rubin, *et al.*, 1988), leading to apoptosis.

PKR is known to play a role in the TNF- α signaling pathway and in the induction of apoptosis. It has been shown that U937 cells which over express PKR, also exhibit increased apoptosis. (See, e.g., Yeung MC, *et al.*, 1996 and Yeung MC, *et al.*, 1999.)

Individual proto-oncogenes that have been associated with apoptosis may be
5 expressed in cells undergoing apoptosis, and modulation of expression of individual proto-oncogenes has been observed to affect the process. Exemplary proto-oncogenes include c-myc, Fas (APO-1), p53, and Bcl-2 in addition to other genes such as ced-3, ced-4, ced-9 and Ice (Stellar, 1995; Cohen, 1993).

By inhibiting apoptosis, the cell lines described herein have a longer lifespan in
10 culture and exhibit an increase in biosynthesis of cytokines and/or an increase in the time over which the cells function to produce cytokines.

Accordingly, in one preferred aspect of the invention, a selected gene protein capable of inhibiting apoptosis, e.g., CrmA, Bcl-2a, Bcl-X_L or a homologue thereof is overexpressed in the host cell resulting in a suppression or delay in apoptotic cell death.

15 In other cases, a "modified form of", a protein associated with apoptosis, is expressed in a cell. Suppressing the expression of a gene encoding a protein associated with apoptosis may result in suppression or delay of apoptotic cell death and can be effected by methods including, but not limited to, mutation of an endogenous gene, homologous recombination or site directed mutagenesis, gene deletion or gene ablation or
20 any method effective to result in the abolition or altered expression of a gene which encodes a protein associated with apoptosis.

Proteins associated with apoptosis include, but are not limited to eIF-2a or eIF-2alpha, eIF-3, FADD, Bcl-X_S, BAK, BAX, and the like. A "modified form of" a protein means a derivative or variant form of the native protein that generally has a derivative
25 polypeptide sequence containing at least one amino acid substitution, deletion or insertion, with amino acid substitutions being particularly preferred. The amino acid substitution, insertion or deletion may occur at any residue within the polypeptide sequence, which interferes with the biological activity of the protein. The corresponding nucleic acid sequence which encodes the variant or derivative protein is considered to be a "mutated"
30 or "modified form of" the gene or coding sequence therefore, and is included within the scope of the invention.

By way of example, suppression of the apoptotic cell death process in human cell culture may be achieved by: (1) overexpression of a protein capable of inhibiting apoptosis, examples of which include, but are not limited to CrmA, Bcl-2a and Bcl-X_L or a homologue
35 thereof; (2) suppression of eIF2-alpha (GenBank Accession No. A 457497)

phosphorylation, *e.g.*, by overexpression of a mutant form of eIF2-alpha or eukaryotic translation initiation factor (eIF-3), prepared by mutation of the respective endogenous gene using homologous recombination or site directed mutagenesis (thereby inhibiting the downstream substrates of PKR); (3) suppression of endogenous FADD activity, *e.g.*, by
5 overexpression of a mutant form of FADD, prepared by mutation of the endogenous FADD gene using homologous recombination or site directed mutagenesis; or (4) use of a transdominant mutant, by mutation of an endogenous gene for one or more pro-apoptotic counterparts of Bcl-2a, *e.g.* BAX (GenBank Accession No. L22473), BAK (GenBank Accession No. BE221666), and/or Bcl-X_S (GenBank Accession No. L20122) by
10 homologous recombination or site-directed mutagenesis, or by gene ablation or gene deletion of one or more of BAX, BAK, and Bcl-X_S.

Cell death may be detected by staining cells with propidium iodide (PI), or by use of assays specific to apoptotic cell death, *e.g.*, by staining with annexin V (Vermes, *et al.*, 1995). Necrotic cell death may be distinguished from apoptotic cell death by evaluating the
15 results of a combination of the assays for cell viability, together with microscopic observation of the morphology of the relevant cells.

In one approach, a cytokine regulatory factor overexpressing cell line is provided and transfected with a vector containing an anti-apoptotic gene, such that transfection and selection of cells for anti-apoptotic function is carried out using cells that have already been
20 "stabilized" with respect to cytokine regulatory factor overexpression. In this case, the cytokine regulatory factor overexpressing cell line may be prepared by subcloning and selection or by introduction and expression of a cytokine regulatory factor-encoding nucleic acid sequence.

In an alternative approach, the cells are first transfected with a vector containing an
25 anti-apoptotic gene, then successful transformants may be further transfected with a vector containing a cytokine regulatory factor-encoding nucleic acid sequence. This allows for the second transfection and selection to be carried out using cells that have already been "stabilized" with an anti-apoptotic function. Alternatively, cells that have already been "stabilized" with an anti-apoptotic function may be subcloned and selected for cytokine
30 regulatory factor overexpression.

Methods for enhancing the production of cytokines in cell culture by inhibiting apoptosis associated with cytokine synthesis, particularly under conditions of cytokine regulatory factor overexpression are further described in co-owned U.S. Application Serial No. 09/772,109, expressly incorporated by reference herein.

35

V. Increasing Endogenous Cytokine Regulatory Factor Activity, Expression and/or Production

In accordance with the present invention, it has been discovered that cell lines capable of expressing one or more cytokine regulatory factors and mixtures of cytokines, 5 may be subjected to limiting dilution cloning (referred to herein as "subcloning"), screened for enhanced cytokine regulatory factor activity and/or mRNA and/or protein expression, further subcloned and selected for enhanced cytokine activity and/or expression, as further detailed below. Exemplary cytokines which may be used as markers for such enhanced cytokine regulatory factor overexpression, include but are not limited to TNF-alpha and 10 beta, IL-2, IL-6, IL-8, IL-10, GM-CSF, and IFNs.

In practicing the method, a cell line capable of expressing one or more cytokine regulatory factors and one or more cytokines (designated herein as the "parental cell line") is identified and subjected to limiting dilution cloning of single cells, using standard methods routinely employed by those of skill in the art. In general, the subcloning step is 15 carried out at least 1 times, and typically 3 to 5 times in succession in 96 well plates. Subclones are grown to obtain a population of approximately 0.3 to 0.5 million cells/ml using culture conditions typically employed to culture the parental cell line. The subclones are then assayed for cytokine regulatory factor and cytokine expression.

Exemplary assays for cytokine regulatory factor expression and/or production 20 include functional assays for biological activity, protein assays such as Western blot and assays for cytokine regulatory factor mRNA such as RT-PCR (reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction) and Northern blotting, dot blotting, or *in situ* hybridization using an appropriately labeled probe based on the cytokine regulatory factor-encoding nucleic acid sequence.

25 Subclones that exhibit a level of cytokine regulatory factor expression or production that is at least 2-fold (2X), and preferably 3-fold (3X), 4-fold (4X), 5-fold (5X) or more greater than the level of cytokine regulatory factor expression or production of the parental cell line are selected. In some cases, such selected subclones exhibit a level of cytokine regulatory factor expression or production that is 10-fold (10X) or more 30 the level of cytokine regulatory factor expression or production of the parental cell line.

Typically, selected subclones are primed by exposure to a priming agent prior to being treated in a manner effective to result in enhanced cytokine regulatory factor and cytokine production. Exemplary priming agents are further described below. Selected subclones are then induced in a manner effective to result in enhanced cytokine regulatory 35 factor expression and enhanced production of mixtures of cytokines.

VI. Increasing Cytokine Regulatory Factor by Expression of a Heterologous Nucleic Acid Construct in a Cell

The invention also provides host cells that have been transduced, transformed or transfected with an expression vector comprising a cytokine regulatory factor-encoding nucleic acid sequence. The culture conditions, such as temperature, pH and the like, are those previously used for the parental host cell prior to transduction, transformation or transfection and will be apparent to those skilled in the art.

In one approach, a human cell line is transfected with an expression vector having a promoter or biologically active promoter fragment or one or more (e.g., a series) of enhancers which functions in the host cell line, operably linked to a DNA segment encoding one or more cytokine regulatory factors, such that the one or more cytokine regulatory factors are overexpressed in the cell line.

In one approach, parental cells are transfected with an expression vector comprising a cytokine regulatory factor-encoding nucleic acid sequence under the control of a constitutive or inducible promoter, such that culturing the cells in a suitable growth medium leads to overexpression of the cytokine regulatory factor nucleic acid sequence. The cells may also be transfected with a second vector that expresses a protein that inhibits apoptosis in the cells under conditions of cytokine regulatory factor overexpression and/or cytokine production.

The examples describe exemplary vectors and transfection methods for obtaining human cytokine-producing cells suitable for use in the invention. The cells are sequentially transfected with the vector containing a cytokine regulatory factor and an anti-apoptotic gene, with successful transformants selected prior to the second transfection. This allows for the second transfection and selection to be carried out with cells that have already been "stabilized" for expression of a cytokine regulatory factor or anti-apoptotic gene. The vector construction and transfection conditions are conventional, and known to those skilled in the art. In particular, it is well known, in such vector constructions, to obtain suitable plasmids or other vectors, e.g., from commercial sources, capable of being introduced into and replicating within selected human cells, where the plasmids may also be equipped with selectable markers, insertion sites, and suitable control elements, such as termination sequences. Exemplary coding sequences for a cytokine regulatory factor, the PKR gene, and for an anti-apoptotic gene, Bcl-X_L, are referenced in Example 1, and can be obtained from the GenBank as cited.

Appropriate cloning and expression vectors for use in human cells are described in Sambrook *et al.* (1989) *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual* (Second Edition), Cold

Spring Harbor Press, Plainview, N.Y. and Ausubel FM *et al.* (1989) Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, John Wiley & Sons, New York, N.Y., expressly incorporated by reference herein. Exemplary promoters include both constitutive promoters and inducible promoters, examples of which include a CMV promoter, an SV40 early promoter, an RSV promoter, an EF-1alpha promoter, a promoter containing the responsive element (TRE) and the metallothionein promoter.

A. Vectors

Natural or synthetic polynucleotide fragments encoding one or more cytokine regulatory factors ("cytokine regulatory factor-encoding nucleic acid sequences") or anti-apoptotic genes may be incorporated into heterologous nucleic acid constructs or vectors, capable of introduction into, and replication in, a human cell. The vectors and methods disclosed herein are suitable for use in host cells for the expression of one or more cytokine regulatory factors or anti-apoptotic genes. Any vector may be used as long as it is replicable and viable in the human cells into which it is introduced. Large numbers of suitable vectors and promoters are known to those of skill in the art, and are commercially available.

Vectors are the means by which DNA is delivered to the target cell. Methods known in the art for delivery of nucleic acid constructs into mammalian cells include viral methods using adenoviral vectors, retroviral vectors, or adeno-associated viral vectors. In general, the efficiency of gene transfer by viral vectors, e.g., retroviral vectors and adenoviral vectors, is higher than that of non-viral vectors. Retroviral vectors, including the most widely used amphotrophic murine leukemia virus (MuLV) vector, can infect only replicating cells, and typically, their transduction rate is lower than that of adenoviral vectors. However, since retroviral vectors integrate into the host genome the expression of the transgene is persistent. Recently retroviral vectors have been developed in which the therapeutic gene carrying vector construct is introduced into a packaging cell line that carries two independent constructs, which express structural proteins for packaging, thereby addressing safety issues surrounding the generation of replication competent retroviruses (Salmons and Gunzburg, 1997).

Adenoviral vectors can infect many cell types, resting and replicating, with high efficiency. Recently, a hybrid adeno/retroviral vector has been described. (See, e.g., Bilbao, *et al.*, 1997.). Adeno-associated virus vectors also facilitate integration of transgenes into host chromosomes, and constitutive expression of a transgene, without evoking a strong host immune response.

Artificial chromosomes, e.g., yeast artificial chromosome (YAC) vectors may also be used to introduce heterologous nucleic acid constructs into cells.

Appropriate cloning and expression vectors for use in human cells are also described in Sambrook *et al.*, 1989, and Ausubel FM *et al.*, 1989, expressly incorporated
5 by reference herein. The DNA coding sequence may be inserted into a plasmid or vector (collectively referred to herein as "vectors") by a variety of procedures. In general, the DNA sequence is inserted into an appropriate restriction endonuclease site(s) by standard procedures. Such procedures and related sub-cloning procedures are deemed to be within the scope of knowledge of those skilled in the art.

10 Such vectors are typically equipped with selectable markers, insertion sites, and suitable control elements, such as termination sequences. The vector may comprise regulatory sequences, including, for example, non-coding sequences, such as introns and control elements, *i.e.*, promoter and terminator elements or 5' and/or 3' untranslated regions, effective for expression of the coding sequence in host cells (and/or in a vector or
15 host cell environment in which a modified soluble protein antigen coding sequence is not normally expressed), operably linked to the coding sequence. Large numbers of suitable vectors and promoters are known to those of skill in the art and many are commercially available.

Exemplary promoters include both constitutive promoters and inducible promoters,
20 examples of which include a CMV promoter, an SV40 early promoter, an RSV promoter, an EF-1 α promoter, a promoter containing the tet responsive element (TRE) in the tet-on or tet-off system as described (ClonTech and BASF), the beta actin promoter and the metallothionein promoter that can upregulated by addition of certain metal salts. Large numbers of suitable vectors and promoters are known to those of skill in the art, are
25 commercially available and are described in Sambrook, *et al.*, (*supra*). Hybrid promoters, which combine elements of more than one promoter also find utility in the methods of the invention. Methods for construction of hybrid promoters are well known in the art.

Selectable markers for use in such expression vectors are generally known in the art and the choice of the proper selectable marker will depend on the host cell. Typical
30 selectable marker genes encode proteins that confer resistance to antibiotics or other toxins, *for example*, ampicillin, methotrexate, tetracycline, neomycin (Southern and Berg, J., 1982), mycophenolic acid (Mulligan and Berg, 1980), puromycin, zeomycin, or hygromycin (Sugden *et al.*, 1985).

In one preferred embodiment of the invention, cytokine regulatory factor
35 overexpression and/or the expression of an anti-apoptotic gene is achieved using cells that

comprise exogenously provided cytokine regulatory factor and/or anti-apoptotic protein-encoding nucleic acid sequences, respectively, under the control of a suitable promoter, either constitutive or inducible, under conditions suitable for expression in cell culture.

B. Nucleic Acid Coding Sequences

- 5 A vector comprising a cytokine regulatory factor-encoding nucleic acid sequence may be introduced into a cell, resulting in overexpression of one or more cytokine regulatory factors by the cell.

Exemplary coding sequences for use in such vectors include, but are not limited to, the coding sequence from the human p68 PKR gene found at GenBank Accession No.

- 10 M35663, the murine PKR gene and other eIF-2-alpha kinases including yeast GCN2 and hemin regulated inhibitor (Wek RC, Trends Biochem Sci 1994; 19: 491-496).

Cytokine regulatory factors for use in practicing the invention include, but are not limited to, ISG (2-5A synthetase GenBank Accession No. NM_006187, ISGy3 GenBank Accession No. NM_002038, MxA GenBank Accession No. 30817, MxB GenBank Accession No.

- 15 30818), IRF-1 GenBank Accession No. NM_002198, IRF-3 GenBank Accession No.

NM_001571, IRF-7A GenBank Accession No. U53830, IRF-7B GenBank Accession No. U53831 IRF-7C GenBank Accession No. U53832, cytokine receptors, NF-kB GenBank Accession No. NM_003998, AP-1 GenBank Accession No. J04111, NF-IL6 GenBank Accession No. X52560, PKC inducers, p38 MAPK GenBank Accession No. AF015256,

- 20 Jak3 GenBank Accession No. NM_000215, STAT GenBank Accession No. NM_007315,

IFN- γ GenBank Accession No. J00219, IFN- β GenBank Accession No. V00534, IFN- α GenBank Accession No. J00207, TNF- α GenBank Accession No. X02910, TNF- β

GenBank Accession No. M16441, GM-CSF GenBank Accession No. NM_00758, G-CSF GenBank Accession No. X03655, EGF GenBank Accession No. NM_001963, PDGFalpha

- 25 GenBank Accession No. NM_002607, PDGFbeta GenBank Accession No. NM_002609,

TGFbeta GenBank Accession No. M60316, IL-1, chemokines (IL-8 GenBank Accession No. M28130, MIP-1a GenBank Accession No. NM_002983, MIP-1b GenBank Accession No. J04130), monocyte chemotactic proteins (MCP1 GenBank Accession No.

NM_002982), PMA, calcium ionophores, sodium butyrate or endotoxin, polyI: C, dsRNA,

- 30 viral analogs, cellular stress signals that activate PKR, (heat shock, pathogen infection), factors that interact with a promoter controlling PKR expression, signal of transduction and transcription (STAT) and any factor that effects enhanced cytokine production.

In addition, mutants or variant forms of a cytokine regulatory factor-encoding

nucleic acid sequence can be included in vector constructs for use in the overexpression of

- 35 the cytokine regulatory factor. The polynucleotides for use in practicing the invention

include splice variants, sequences complementary to the native nucleic acid coding sequence and novel fragments thereof. The polynucleotides may be in the form of RNA or in the form of DNA, and include messenger RNA, synthetic RNA and DNA, cDNA, and genomic DNA. The DNA may be double-stranded or single-stranded, and if single-
5 stranded may be the coding strand or the non-coding (anti-sense, complementary) strand. Upon expression, mutant or variant forms of these cytokine regulatory factors may have increased or decreased activity.

In one approach, mutant cytokine regulatory factor coding sequences are generated using the Transformer site-directed mutagenesis kit (ClonTech). Cai and
10 Williams (J Biol Chem 1998; 273: 11274-11280) describe a series of PKR mutants that exhibit dissociation of substrate binding (in terms of eIF-alpha) from kinase activity (phosphorylation of substrates). These mutants which exhibit reduced PKR activity can be used for transfection of cells to generate PKR-expressing cells, albeit less effective in substrate binding or with less kinase activity.

15 A selected cytokine regulatory factor coding sequence may be inserted into a suitable vector according to well-known recombinant techniques and used to transform a cell line capable of cytokine regulatory factor overexpression.

In accordance with the present invention, polynucleotide sequences or genes which encode cytokine regulatory factors and anti-apoptotic proteins include splice
20 variants, fragments of the full length genes, coding sequences for fusion proteins, modified forms of native or full length genes or functional equivalents thereof, collectively referred to herein as "cytokine regulatory factor-encoding nucleic acid sequences" and "anti-apoptotic protein-encoding nucleic acid sequences", respectively.

Due to the inherent degeneracy of the genetic code, other nucleic acid sequences
25 which encode substantially the same or a functionally equivalent amino acid sequence may be used to clone and express the CRF- or anti-apoptotic protein-encoding nucleic acid sequences. Thus, for a given CRF- or anti-apoptotic protein-encoding nucleic acid sequence, it is appreciated that as a result of the degeneracy of the genetic code, a number of coding sequences can be produced that encode the same amino acid
30 sequence. For example, the triplet CGT encodes the amino acid arginine. Arginine is alternatively encoded by CGA, CGC, CGG, AGA, and AGG. Therefore it is appreciated that such substitutions in the coding region fall within the sequence variants covered by the present invention. Any and all of these sequence variants can be utilized in the same way as described herein for the native form of a CRF- or anti-apoptotic protein-encoding
35 nucleic acid sequence.

A "variant" CRF- or anti-apoptotic protein-encoding nucleic acid sequence may encode a "variant" CRF- or anti-apoptotic amino acid sequence which is altered by one or more amino acids from the native polypeptide sequence, both of which are included within the scope of the invention. Similarly, the term "modified form of", relative to a CRF- or anti-
5 apoptotic protein, means a derivative or variant form of the native CRF- or anti-apoptotic protein-encoding nucleic acid sequence or the native CRF- or anti-apoptotic amino acid sequence. Typically, a "modified form of" a native CRF- or anti-apoptotic protein or the coding sequence for the protein has a derivative sequence containing at least one amino acid or nucleic acid substitution, deletion or insertion, respectively.

10 The polynucleotides for use in practicing the invention include sequences which encode native CRF- or anti-apoptotic proteins and splice variants thereof, sequences complementary to the coding sequence and novel fragments of CRF- or anti-apoptotic protein encoding polynucleotides. The polynucleotides may be in the form of RNA or DNA, and include messenger RNA, synthetic RNA and DNA, cDNA and genomic DNA. The
15 DNA may be double-stranded or single-stranded and if single-stranded may be the coding strand or the non-coding (antisense, complementary) strand.

As will be understood by those of skill in the art, in some cases it may be advantageous to produce nucleotide sequences possessing non-naturally occurring codons. Codons preferred by a particular eukaryotic host (Murray, E. *et al.*, 1989) can be
20 selected, for example, to increase the rate of CRF- or anti-apoptotic protein expression or to produce recombinant RNA transcripts having desirable properties, such as a longer half-life than transcripts produced using the naturally occurring sequence.

A native CRF- or anti-apoptotic protein-encoding nucleotide sequence may be engineered in order to alter the coding sequence for a variety of reasons, including but not
25 limited to, alterations which modify the cloning, processing and/or expression by a cell.

In one approach, a heterologous nucleic acid construct or expression vector for use in practicing the invention includes the coding sequence for a protein, the active form of which is desired such as the coding sequence for a cytokine regulatory factor (CRF), exemplified herein by PKR or the coding sequence for an anti-apoptotic protein,
30 exemplified herein by CrmA, Bcl-2 or Bcl-X_L.

In one general embodiment of the invention, a CRF encoding nucleic acid sequence has at least 70%, preferably 80%, 85%, 90% or 95% or more sequence identity to the native coding sequence. For example, a coding sequence useful for expression of human PKR has at least 70%, preferably 80%, 85%, 90% or 95% or more sequence
35 identity to the sequence found at GenBank Accession No. M35663.

In the case of a cytokine regulatory factor encoding nucleic acid sequences, the substitution, insertion or deletion may occur at any residue within the sequence, as long as the encoded amino acid sequence maintains the biological activity of the native cytokine regulatory factor.

- 5 In another general embodiment, the invention provides the nucleic acid coding sequence for CrmA, Bcl-2a, Bcl-X_L or a homologue thereof which has at least 70%, preferably 80%, 85%, 90% or 95% or more sequence identity to the native coding sequence found in GenBank. For example, a coding sequence useful for expression of the human p68 PKR gene has at least 70%, preferably 80%, 85%, 90% or 95% or more
10 sequence identity to the sequence found at GenBank Accession No. M35663.

When introducing a variant form of the nucleic acid coding sequence for CrmA, Bcl-2a, Bcl-X_L or a homologue thereof into a human cell, the substitution, insertion or deletion may occur at any residue within the sequence, so long as the encoded amino acid sequence maintains the biological activity of the native anti-apoptotic protein.

- 15 In a related embodiment, apoptosis may be inhibited by the introduction of a modified coding sequence for a protein associated with apoptosis, e.g., eIF-2a or eIF-2alpha, eIF-3, FADD, Bcl-X_S, BAK, BAX, and the like. In this embodiment, the modified eIF-2a or eIF-2alpha, eIF-3, FADD, Bcl-X_S, BAK or BAX coding sequence encodes a derivative or variant form of the native protein that generally has a derivative polypeptide
20 sequence containing at least one amino acid substitution, deletion or insertion, which is introduced at any residue within the polypeptide sequence such that it interferes with the biological activity of the protein.

- Exemplary computer programs which can be used to determine identity between two sequences and thereby analyze variant coding sequences, include, but are not limited
25 to, the suite of BLAST programs, e.g., BLASTN, BLASTX, and TBLASTX, BLASTP and TBLASTN, publicly available on the Internet on the NIH website. See, also, Altschul, S.F. *et al.*, 1990 and Altschul, S.F. *et al.*, 1997. Sequence searches are typically carried out using the BLASTN program when comparing a nucleic acid sequence relative to nucleic acid sequences in the GenBank DNA Sequences and other public databases. The
30 BLASTX program is preferred for searching nucleic acid sequences which have been translated in all reading frames against amino acid sequences in the GenBank Protein Sequences and other public databases. Both BLASTN and BLASTX are run using default parameters of an open gap penalty of 11.0, and an extended gap penalty of 1.0, and utilize the BLOSUM-62 matrix. [See, Altschul, *et al.*, 1997.]

The degree of identity between two or more sequences in the analysis of variant coding sequences is generally performed using a sequence analysis program such as the CLUSTAL-W program (Thompson, J.D. *et al.*, Nucleic Acids Research, 22:4673-4680. 1994) in MacVector version 6.5, operated with default parameters, including an open gap
5 penalty of 10.0, an extended gap penalty of 0.1, and a BLOSUM 30 similarity matrix. Each of these sequence analysis programs is available at various locations on the Internet.

The relationship between two sequences may also be characterized by hybridization. A nucleic acid sequence is considered to be "selectively hybridizable" to a reference nucleic acid sequence if the two sequences specifically hybridize to one another
10 under moderate to high stringency hybridization and wash conditions. Hybridization conditions are based on the melting temperature (T_m) of the nucleic acid binding complex or probe. "Maximum stringency" typically occurs at about $T_m-5^\circ\text{C}$ (5° below the T_m of the probe); "high stringency" at about $5-10^\circ$ below the T_m ; "intermediate stringency" at about $10-20^\circ$ below the T_m of the probe; and "low stringency" at about $20-25^\circ$ below the T_m .
15 Functionally, maximum stringency conditions may be used to identify sequences having strict identity or near-strict identity; while high stringency conditions are used to identify sequences having about 80% or more sequence identity.

Moderate and high stringency hybridization conditions are well known in the art (see, e.g., Sambrook, *et al.*, 1989, Chapters 9 and 11, and in Ausubel, F.M., *et al.*, 1993,
20 expressly incorporated by reference herein). An example of high stringency conditions includes hybridization at about 42°C in 50% formamide, 5X SSC, 5X Denhardt's solution, 0.5% SDS and 100 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ denatured carrier DNA followed by washing two times in 2X SSC and 0.5% SDS at room temperature and two additional times in 0.1X SSC and 0.5% SDS at 42°C .

25 The nucleic acid coding sequence for a cytokine regulatory factor may be altered for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to, alterations which modify the cloning, processing and/or expression of the cytokine regulatory factor by a cell.

Heterologous nucleic acid constructs may include the coding sequence for one or more cytokine regulatory factors alone or in combination with the coding sequence for one
30 or more anti-apoptotic proteins, a variant, fragment or splice variant thereof: (i) in isolation; (ii) in combination with additional coding sequences; such as sequences encoding a fusion protein or signal peptide; (iii) in combination with non-coding sequences, such as introns and control elements, such as promoter and terminator elements or 5' and/or 3' untranslated regions, effective for expression of the coding sequence in a suitable host;

and/or (iv) in a vector or host environment in which the coding sequence is a heterologous gene.

The present invention also makes use of recombinant nucleic acid constructs comprising one or more of the cytokine regulatory factor-encoding nucleic acid sequences alone or in combination with the coding sequence for one or more anti-apoptotic proteins, as described above. The constructs typically take the form of a vector, such as a plasmid or viral vector, into which the coding sequence has been inserted, in a forward or reverse orientation.

C. Selection and Transformation of Host Cells

A vector comprising a nucleic acid coding sequence, as described above, together with appropriate promoter and control sequences, is employed to transform a human cell to permit the cell to overexpress one or more cytokine regulatory factors alone or in combination with the coding sequence for one or more anti-apoptotic proteins and thereby enhance the production of mixtures of cytokines.

In one aspect of the present invention, a heterologous nucleic acid construct is employed to transfer the nucleic acid coding sequence into a cell *in vitro*, with established cell lines preferred. For long-term, high-yield production of mixtures of cytokines, stable expression is also preferred. It follows that any method effective to generate stable transformants may be used in practicing the invention.

The practice of the present invention will employ, unless otherwise indicated, conventional techniques of molecular biology, microbiology, recombinant DNA, and immunology, which are within the skill of the art. Such techniques are explained fully in the literature. See, for example, "Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual", Second Edition (Sambrook, Fritsch & Maniatis, 1989), "Animal Cell Culture" (R. I. Freshney, ed., 1987); "Current Protocols in Molecular Biology" (F. M. Ausubel *et al.*, eds., 1987); and "Current Protocols in Immunology" (J. E. Coligan *et al.*, eds., 1991), hereby expressly incorporated herein by reference.

A parental cell or cell line may be genetically modified (*i.e.*, transduced, transformed or transfected) with a cloning vector or an expression vector. The vector may be in the form of a plasmid, a viral particle, a phage, etc.

Numerous methods for introducing nucleic acids into cells for expression of heterologous nucleic acid sequences are also known to the ordinarily skilled artisan, including, but not limited to electroporation; cell-to-cell fusion; nuclear microinjection or direct microinjection into single cells; bacterial protoplast fusion with intact cells; use of polycations, *e.g.*, polybrene or polyornithine; membrane fusion with liposomes,

lipofectamine or lipofection-mediated transfection; high velocity bombardment with DNA-coated microprojectiles; incubation with calcium phosphate-DNA precipitate; DEAE-Dextran mediated transfection; infection with modified viral nucleic acids; and the like. (See, e.g., Davis, L., Dibner, M., and Battey, I. Basic Methods in Molecular Biology, 1986.)

- 5 The genetically modified cells are cultured in conventional nutrient media modified as appropriate for activating promoters, selecting transformants or amplifying expression of the one or more nucleic acid coding sequences which were introduced into the cells. The culture conditions, such as temperature, pH and the like, are those previously used for the host cell selected for expression, and will be apparent to those skilled in the art. The
- 10 progeny of cells into which one or more nucleic acid coding sequences have been introduced are generally considered to comprise the introduced sequence(s).

D. Enhancement of Cytokine Regulatory Factor and Cytokine Expression

- In general, once a cell line that overexpresses one or more cytokine regulatory factors alone or in combination with one or more anti-apoptotic proteins has been
- 15 generated, additional steps are taken to enhance production of mixtures of cytokines, and/or to facilitate recovery of cytokines from the cell culture. Such steps include one or more of (1) culturing the cells under conditions effective to enhance expression of one or more cytokine regulatory factors; (2) culturing the cells under conditions effective to facilitate recovery of cytokines; (3) priming the cells; and (4) treating the cells to induce
- 20 production of one or more cytokine regulatory factors and one or more cytokines (induction).

- Culturing the cells under conditions effective to enhance expression of one or more cytokine regulatory factors includes culture in medium containing factors that facilitate expression, e.g., a metal salt or antibiotics, added to the medium at a concentration
- 25 effective to activate an inducible promoter.

Culturing the cells under conditions effective to facilitate recovery of cytokines includes culture in serum and/or protein-free medium.

- Priming is a well known phenomenon whereby exposure of cells to a priming agent results in enhanced production of one or more cytokines, typically followed by induction.
- 30 Exemplary priming agents include, but are not limited to, phorbol myristate acetate (PMA) and other phorbol esters, calcium ionophores, interferon- α , interferon- γ , interferon- β , G-CSF, GM-CSF, PDGF, TGF, EGF or chemokines (IL-8, MCP or MIP), sodium butyrate, endotoxin, PHA, LPS and derivatives thereof, such as 3-deacyl LPS, viruses such as Newcastle Disease Virus, a kinase activator (e.g., protein activator of PKR, PACT), or a
- 35 transcription activator (NF-KB, IRFs including IRF-3 and IRF-7). Suppression of a PKR

inhibitor, p53, has also been demonstrated to result in enhanced PKR activity (Tan SL, Gale MJ Jr, Katze MG, Mol Cell Biol 18(5):2431-43, 1998). Alternatively, deprivation of serum and growth factors such as IL-3 may be used to induce PKR activity in cells. Suitable priming agent concentrations may be found in the scientific literature.

5 By way of example, a concentration of PMA in the range 5-50 nM, typically about 10 nM, is suitable. It will be understood that the optimal priming agent concentration and combination of priming agent, inducing agent and conditions for such priming and induction of a particular type of cells for production of a specific cytokine mixture will vary. However, such conditions may be determined by one of skill in the art without extensive
10 experimentation.

Induction or treatment refers to the addition of a microbial, (viral, bacterial, or fungal) inducer, an extract of a microbe capable of acting as an inducer (e.g., an endotoxin or bacterial cell wall containing extract), or a non-microbial inducer to the cell culture. Exemplary non-microbial inducers include, but are not limited to, double-stranded RNA
15 (dsRNA) such as poly(I):poly(C) or poly r(I):poly r(C) (poly IC) or viral dsRNA such as Sendai virus RNA, small molecules, e.g., polyanions, heparin dextran sulfate, chondroitin sulfate and cytokines.

Exemplary methods of viral induction include, but are not limited to, (1) exposure to live virus (such as Sendai virus, encephalomyocarditis virus or Herpes simplex virus); (2)
20 exposure to the aforementioned killed virus; or (3) exposure to isolated double-stranded viral RNA. In addition, cytokine induction may be produced or enhanced by adding particular cytokines known to stimulate cytokine production in certain cells. After addition of the inducing agent, cells are generally further incubated until desired levels of induced and secreted cytokines are obtained. Incubation at 37°C for at least 12-48
25 hours, and up to 72-96 hours is generally sufficient.

The inducing agent is added in an amount effective and for a period of time to induce cytokine production, e.g., effective to obtain production of a mixture of cytokines in the culture medium, e.g., from about 0.001-100 µg/ml.

In one exemplary application of the method, cells are primed with IFN-beta for
30 approximately 24 hours, followed by exposure to medium containing polyI:C and cycloheximide for approximately 5 hrs, with Actinomycin D added during the last hour.

In another exemplary application of the method, cells are primed with IFN-beta for approximately 24 hours, then induced by treatment with a viral inducer, e.g., Sendai Virus (SV) for approximately 1 hr, followed by exposure to medium containing polyI:C and
35 cycloheximide for approximately 5 hrs, with Actinomycin D added during the last hour.

Example 1 describes production of a CrmA expressing cell line and superinduction or viral induction of the cells. Example 2 describes exemplary vectors, transfection methods and production of a cytokine regulatory factor overexpressing cell line that also expresses the anti-apoptotic protein, Bcl-X_L, suitable for use in practicing the invention.

- 5 Example 3 describes cytokine production by an exemplary cytokine regulatory factor overexpressing cell line and a cytokine regulatory factor overexpressing cell line that also expresses an anti-apoptotic protein.

In one preferred approach, overexpression of a cytokine regulatory factor and production of one or more cytokines is effected by further treatment of the cells with
10 DEAE Dextran. In another approach, cytokine regulatory factor expression may be enhanced by another regulatory factor which interacts with the promoter controlling the expression of the cytokine regulatory factor-encoding nucleic acid sequence.

Expression of the endogenous PKR-encoding nucleic acid sequence may be modulated by regulatory factors including the interferon-inducible GAS elements, the IL-6 sensitive
15 NF-IL6 and APRF elements and NF- κ B elements. (See, e.g., Jagus R. *et al.*, 1999 and Williams BR, 1999.)

Typically, at various time points following culture, priming and treatment (i.e. induction), the culture medium is tested for the presence or one or more selected cytokines. The presence of selected cytokines may be assayed by direct detection, e.g.,
20 with an antibody binding assay or indirectly by the effect of the culture medium on the activity of various cytokine-responsive cells, according to well known biological assays.

In one exemplary approach, the culturing step is carried out in medium containing serum, and the induction step is carried out in medium that is substantially serum and/or protein free. This approach provides the advantage that the final cell culture medium from
25 which the cytokine mixture is obtained has a minimum of added serum proteins, and thus lends itself to simpler purification methods in order to obtain a cytokine composition suitable for administration to humans.

In another exemplary approach, priming of the PKR overexpressing Namalwa 41027 cell line with phorbol myristate acetate (PMA), followed by induction with polyI:C
30 was effective to induce greater PKR expression than observed for wild type Namalwa cells. Figure 6* illustrates enhanced TNF-beta, IL-6 and IL-8 production following poly I:C induction in Namalwa PKR+ 41027 cells relative to TNF-beta, IL-6 and IL-8 production by wild type Namalwa cells. These results demonstrate that a PKR overexpressing cell line derived by subcloning and selection produces a mixture of cytokines as further described
35 in Example 3.

VII. Methods of Evaluating Cytokine Regulatory Factor and Cytokine Expression

The activity, expression and/or production of cytokine regulatory factors and cytokines may be determined by methods known in the art. Examples include functional assays for biological activity and Northern blot or reverse transcriptase polymerase chain
5 reaction (RT-PCR) for mRNA. Immunoassays, such as may be used to detect the expressed protein.

Alternatively, expression may be measured by immunological methods, such as immunohistochemical staining of cells or tissue sections to directly evaluate expression (e.g., indirect immunofluorescent assays), ELISA, competitive immunoassays,
10 radioimmunoassays, Western blot, and the like. Antibodies useful for immunohistochemical staining and/or assay of sample fluids may be either monoclonal or polyclonal and may be prepared in any mammal.

By way of example, the presence, amplification and/or expression of an endogenous or exogenously provided PKR-encoding nucleic acid sequence may be
15 measured in a sample directly, for example, by an assay for PKR activity, expression and/or production. Such assays include autophosphorylation assays, an assay for eIF2 α phosphorylation, a kinase assay; Northern blotting to quantitate the transcription of mRNA, dot blotting (DNA or RNA analysis), RT-PCR (reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction), or *in situ* hybridization, using an appropriately labeled probe, based on the PKR-
20 encoding nucleic acid sequence; and conventional Southern blotting.

The details of such methods are known to those of skill in the art and many reagents for practicing such methods are commercially available. In general, kits for cytokine analysis are commercially available and may be used for the quantitative immunoassay of the expression level of known cytokines or other proteins (e.g., cytokine
25 detection kits available from R&D Systems).

VIII. Cytokine Production

Cytokines produced by the cells that overexpress a cytokine regulatory factor and/or an anti-apoptotic protein are secreted into the medium and may be purified or
30 isolated, e.g., by removing unwanted components from the cell culture medium. In general, the cytokines are fractionated to segregate cytokines having selected properties, such as binding affinity to particular binding agents, e.g., antibodies or receptors; or which have a selected molecular weight range, or range of isoelectric points.

A. Purification and/or Isolation of Cytokines

After a combination of one or more of cell line selection, modification, priming and treating (i.e. induction) for an appropriate time period, production of a cytokine mixture is achieved. The culture medium containing the cell-produced cytokine mixture is then

5 harvested and the cytokines are isolated and/or purified from the cell culture. To the extent that the harvested culture medium contains suspended cells, the medium may be centrifuged at low speed, filtered, or otherwise treated to remove cells and cellular debris. The medium may be further treated, e.g., by diafiltration or molecular sieve chromatography, to remove low molecular weight components, such as pyrogens, and
10 higher molecular weight components that are outside the molecular weight range of cytokines, which is typically about 10-40 kD.

To obtain a desired cytokine mixture, the culture medium from cytokine-producing cells is subjected to various protein isolation procedures which take advantage of the binding affinity of each cytokine to binding agents such as antibodies or receptors, the
15 molecular weight or isoelectric point thereof. Exemplary procedures include antibody-affinity column chromatography, ion exchange chromatography; ethanol precipitation; reverse phase HPLC; chromatography on silica or on a cation-exchange resin such as DEAE; chromatofocusing; SDS-PAGE; ammonium sulfate precipitation; or gel filtration using, for example, Sephadex G-75. Various methods of protein purification may be
20 employed and such methods are known in the art and described for example in Deutscher, *Methods in Enzymology*, 182, 1990; Scopes, *Protein Purification: Principles and Practice*, Springer-Verlag, New York, 1982. The purification step(s) selected will depend on the nature of the production process used and the particular cytokine mixture produced.

In a preferred isolation method, a composition containing a desired cytokine
25 mixture is co-purified by isolating the selected cytokines using affinity chromatography. The method employs, as the affinity medium, purified anti-cytokine antibodies or cytokine-specific receptors that bind to desired cytokines. Antibodies specific against a number of cytokines are commercially available, e.g., from Sigma Chemical Co., Sigma Catalog 2000-2001 (St. Louis, MO).

30 In addition, affinity columns suitable for cytokine-antibody interaction can be obtained from commercial vendors, e.g. Pharmacia. In using such columns to prepare a cytokine composition in accordance with the present invention, the column is equilibrated with solutions such as Tris-buffered saline (TBS) and selected antibodies to the desired cytokines are loaded on the pre-equilibrated affinity column to allow the antibodies to bind.
35 The cytokine-containing culture medium, obtained directly from the cell culture or after

partial purification is chilled to low temperature, e.g., 4° C, and loaded onto the affinity column. The column is then incubated on a tumbling device at room temperature for 12-18 hours to allow binding of the cytokines to the corresponding antibodies.

After incubation, the column is washed with one or more washing solutions, such
5 as TBS, then the bound cytokines are then eluted with an appropriate eluting buffer. See, e.g., Sambrook J, *et al.*, in MOLECULAR CLONING: A LABORATORY MANUAL, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, NY, (1989) and U.S. Patent Nos. 4,385,991, 3,983,001, 4,937,200, and 5,972,599, which provide details on the use of affinity chromatography for protein purification, each herein.

10 The chromatographic separation may be carried out by successively removing each individual cytokine from a selected cytokine mixture using each of a plurality of different affinity columns, and combining the resultant individually purified cytokines, or preferably, by mixing the cell medium with an affinity column material that contains a column plurality of attached antibodies against the several cytokines to be included in the
15 final cytokine composition or mixture. According to another aspect of the invention, the cytokine mixture may be treated to remove cytokines that have little or no known value in the selected indication or which are known or likely to have a negative impact on therapeutic efficacy.

A cytokine composition or mixture of the present invention includes two or more
20 cytokines produced by cytokine-producing cells prepared by the methods described herein. The cytokines in the mixture are selected for their particular biological activity alone or in combination with the other components of the mixture, and for their roles or potential benefit in treating cancer, viral infection, and inflammation. These determinations are made on the basis of existing clinical trial data, *in vitro* cellular studies and information from
25 the scientific literature on the actions of various cytokines.

IX. Use of Cytokine Compositions of the Invention

The cytokine compositions or mixtures of the invention may be administered by routes including, but not limited to, oral delivery, intraocular delivery, transdermal delivery,
30 transdermal (TD) injection, intramuscular (IM) injection, subcutaneous (SC) injection, intravenous (IV) injection, intraperitoneal (IP) injection, and peritumoral injection or by inhalation. The preferred route of administration is injection by intramuscular, subcutaneous or intravenous routes. Typically, treatment is continued until a desired endpoint is reached, for example, reduction in tumor load, clearing of viral infection, or
35 lessening of symptoms of inflammation. As will be understood by those of skill in the art, the preferred indicators of treatment efficacy will vary dependent upon the disease

condition under treatment. As with any therapeutic regimen, the duration of treatment with the cytokine mixtures of the invention will be adjusted according to the results of an evaluation of treatment efficacy. Such evaluations are conducted regularly, at a frequency appropriate to the disease condition under treatment. For example, an effective treatment
5 of malignant cancers must prevent further spread of neoplastic cells and reduce mortality, i.e. increase survival time for patients who have the disease.

Suitable regimens for administration of cytokine mixtures are variable, but are typified by an initial administration followed by repeated doses at one or more intervals by subsequent administration.

10 In one exemplary application of the methods of the invention, the cytokine is interferon-alpha or interferon-beta and the dosage varies from about 3 to 5 million International Units to about 15 to 20 million International Units total cytokine concentration per administration per patient, where an average patient is 70 kg and a typical cytokine composition has a specific activity of from about 1×10^8 IU per mg to 1×10^9 IU per mg.

15 In another exemplary application of the methods of the invention, the cytokine is IL-2, GM-CSF or IFN gamma and the dosage varies from about 1 to 3 million International Units to about 5 to 10 million International Units total cytokine concentration per administration per patient, where an average patient is 70 kg.

In a typical therapeutic regimen, the cytokine mixture is administered 1 to 3 times
20 per week for a period of 4 to 6 weeks. However, in some cases, administration of a cytokine mixture may be continued for an indefinite time of several years or more, e.g., in the case of administration of interferon-beta for the treatment of MS.

Surgery, radiation therapy, and chemotherapy are currently the primary methods for cancer treatment. It is contemplated that administration of a cytokine mixture may be
25 combined with these other cancer therapies and new emerging treatment modalities including monoclonal antibodies and cancer vaccines. It will be appreciated that the methods described herein may interact in synergistic or additive ways with any one of surgery, radiation therapy, and chemotherapy, resulting in a greater therapeutic effect. In some cases, improved methods for treating cancer will combine conventional cancer
30 treatments, e.g. chemotherapy or radiation therapy, together with administration of a cytokine mixture.

The treatment regimens described above are presented for exemplary purposes and that the treatment regimen may be adjusted as needed, dependent upon the patient's response.

All patent and literature references cited in the present specification are hereby expressly incorporated by reference in their entirety.

The following examples illustrate but are not intended in any way to limit the invention.

5

EXAMPLE 1

Preparation and Characterization of a Transgenic CrmA-expressing Cell Line

A. Preparation of a Transgenic CrmA-Expressing Cell Line

The pEF FLAG-crmA-puro expression vector was constructed by inserting the
10 coding sequence for CrmA in-frame into the pEF Bos vector described by Mizushima and
Negata (NAR 18, 5322, 1990), based on the vector described by Huang *et al.*, 1997. pEF
FLAG-crmA-puro contains a full length cDNA encoding the anti-apoptotic CrmA protein
(GenBank Accession No. M14217; Cowpox virus white-pock variant (CPV-W2) (CrmA)
gene, complete coding sequence) under the control of the strong elongation factor 1 alpha
15 (EF-1 alpha) promoter and the puromycin resistance gene under the control of the pGK
promoter. An additional feature of note is the coding sequence for the N-terminal FLAG
epitope (Hopp *et al.*, 1988) that was added to the CrmA nucleic acid sequence to facilitate
detection of cell lines that express CrmA.

The vector also includes (i) a polyadenylation signal and transcription termination
20 sequence to enhance mRNA stability; (ii) an SV40 origin for episomal replication and
simple vector rescue; (iii) an ampicillin resistance gene and a ColE1 origin for selection and
maintenance in *E. coli*; and (iv) a puromycin resistance marker (Puro) to allow for selection
and identification of plasmid-containing eukaryotic cells after transfection with pEF FLAG-
crmA-puro.

25 The day before transfection MG-63 cells were seeded in a 6 well plate at 5×10^4
per well. 2 μ g of pEF FLAG-crmA-puro plasmid DNA was suspended in 100 μ l Opti-MEM
medium lacking serum, proteins or antibiotics. Lipofectamine reagent (Gibco, 10 μ l) was
diluted to 100 μ l with Opti-MEM serum-free medium. Following gentle mixing of the two
solutions, the mixture was incubated at room temperature for 45 min to allow for DNA-
30 liposome complex formation. Immediately prior to treatment of MG-63 cells, 600 μ l of Opti-
MEM serum-free medium was added to the reaction tube containing the DNA-liposome
mixture to obtain the final transfection solution. The cells were washed with PBS and
followed by addition of the final DNA-liposome mixture and incubation for 4 hours at 37°C.
This was followed by the addition of 1 ml MEM-5% FBS and incubation for an additional 16
35 hrs. The culture supernatant was removed by gentle aspiration and fresh cell growth

medium (MEM supplemented with 5% FBS) added. After incubation for 48 hr, fresh media (MEM with 5% FBS) containing the selection marker, geneticin (G418, 500 µg/ml), was added to select for stable transfectants using standard methodology known in the art. In summary, a bulk population of stable transformants was obtained by selection with 500
5 µg/ml G418 (Gibco-BRL) for 3-4 weeks.

B. Characterization of a Transgenic CrmA-Expressing Cell Line

1. Increased Cell Viability

Wild type (WT) and CrmA-expressing (CrmA-#2) MG-63 cells were treated by Sendai virus (SV) induction and superinduction (SI; Inoue I *et al.*, 1991) using the following
10 procedure.

Cells were seeded at a cell density 2.5×10^4 cells per well in 24 well plates, followed by incubation at 37°C with CO₂ concentration at 5%. Following incubation, cells were primed with IFN-beta (100 IU/ml) for 24 hr. The cells were then induced by the addition of 1000 hemagglutinin units of SV in 200 µl of MEM medium supplemented with 2% fetal
15 bovine serum (FBS) to each well, and incubation for one hour, followed by the addition of 300 µl of fresh medium containing polyI:C (100 µg/ml) and cycloheximide (5 µg/ml) and incubation for an additional 5 hrs. Actinomycin D was added during the last hour to a final concentration 4 µg/ml. After the induction process, the treated cells were washed 3 times with PBS to remove all inducers and resuspended in fresh MEM containing 2% FBS.

20 Wild type (WT) and CrmA-expressing (CrmA-#2) MG-63 cells that were not treated by Sendai virus (SV) ± or superinduction (SI) were used as controls (UT). The viability of each type of cells was measured using a standard propidium iodide FACS assay. As shown in Fig. 1, CrmA expression inhibits SV/SI-induced cell death, indicated by a viability of up to 80% for CrmA-expressing cells at 20h after SV induction and SI treatment. In
25 contrast, only 20% of wild type MG-63 cells exposed to the same conditions survived the process.

2. Enhanced Production of Cytokines

The cells were incubated for 20 hrs, then the culture medium from each well was collected and assayed for Interferon-beta (IFN-beta) production by ELISA. The IFN-beta
30 ELISA was performed as described by the supplier. (Human Interferon-beta ELISA kit; distributed by TFB, Inc., and manufactured by FUJIREBIO, Inc., Tokyo, Japan). As shown in Fig. 2, there was significantly more IFN-beta produced by the CrmA#2 MG-63 cells, as compared to the MG-63 wild type counterparts.

CrmA-expressing (CrmA-#2) MG-63 cells were subjected to superinduction (SI) treatment in medium containing 0, 2mM, 4mM, and 8 mM of the nucleoside analog 2-aminopurine (2-AP), a known inhibitor of PKR.

SI (superinduction) treatment was carried out by seeding cells at a density of 2.5x10⁴ cells per well in 24 well plates at 37°C at a CO₂ concentration of 5% the day before priming. Following incubation, the cells were primed with IFN-beta (100 IU/ml) for 24 hr, then 500 µl of fresh medium containing polyI:C (100 µg/ml) and cycloheximide (5 µg/ml) was added and the cells were incubated for an additional 5 hrs, with Actinomycin D added during the last hour to a final concentration 4 µg/ml. After the induction process, the treated cells were washed 3 times with PBS to remove all inducers and resuspended in fresh MEM containing 2% FBS.

As shown in Fig. 3, 2-AP inhibited IFN-beta production in a dose-dependent manner, confirming that PKR plays a role in regulating IFN-beta expression.

3. Analysis of Flag-CrmA protein expression by Western Blot

Cells of the parental wild type cell line (MG-63-WT) and CrmA transformants (MG-63-CrmA-#2) prepared as set forth above, were cultured to 100% confluence in 100 mm dishes. Cells were washed in cold phosphate buffered saline (PBS) and collected in a 1.5 ml microcentrifuge tubes using a cell scraper. Following further washings with PBS, the cells were incubated in lysis buffer (10 mM Tris-HCL [pH 7.5], 1% Triton X-100, 0.25% SDS, 50 mM KCL, 1 mM dithiothreitol, 2mM MgCl₂ and 1x Protein inhibitors cocktail [Roche]) for 10 min on ice, then centrifuged at 10,000g for 10 min. The lysate supernatant was transferred to a new microcentrifuge tube and the protein concentration measured using a BRL kit following the protocol provided by the manufacturer.

Cell lysates containing 100 µg of protein were loaded on a 4-12% NuPAGE Bis-Tris MOPS gel and subjected to electrophoretic separation, after which the gel was blotted onto a PVDF membrane. The membrane was further blotted in 5% milk-PBS overnight and exposed to primary rat anti-Flag antibodies, kindly provided by Dr. A Strasser (Royal Melbourne Hospital, Victoria, Australia) at dilutions of 1:500 for 1 hour. The blotted membrane was washed 3 times with PBS-0.1% Tween-20 and incubated with secondary anti-rat-HRP-conjugated antibodies (1:2000) for 1 hour. The presence of the Flag-CrmA protein was detected using ECL detection reagents (Amersham).

Each sample of cells transfected with a CrmA expression plasmid showed high levels of Flag-CrmA expression, in contrast to parental wild type control cells (MG63-WT) which showed no expression.

EXAMPLE 2

A Namalwa Cell Line that Overexpresses PKR alone or PKR and an Anti-Apoptotic Protein

A. Preparation of pEF-FLAG-Bcl-X_L

The pEF-FLAG-Bcl-X_L vector (Huang, *et al.*, 1997) contains a full length cDNA
5 encoding the anti-apoptotic Bcl-X_L protein operably linked to the strong elongation factor 1
alpha (EF-1 alpha) promoter. An additional salient feature of the vector is the N-terminal
FLAG epitope (Hopp *et al.*, 1988) that was added to the Bcl-X_L protein to facilitate selection
of cell lines that express high levels of Bcl-X_L.

The vector also includes i) a polyadenylation signal and transcription termination
10 sequence to enhance mRNA stability; ii) a SV40 origin for episomal replication and simple
vector rescue; iii) an ampicillin resistance gene and a ColE1 origin for selection and
maintenance in *E. coli*; and iv) a puromycin resistance marker (Puro) to allow for selection
and identification of the plasmid-containing eukaryotic cells after transfection of a Bcl-X_L
and PKR.

15 B. Preparation of pcDNA-FLAG-PKR

The pcDNA-FLAG-PKR vector contains cDNA encoding the full-length human PKR
molecule (551 amino acids; Meurs, *et al.*, 1990; GenBank Accession No. NM002759)
modified by the polymerase chain reaction to include the N terminal FLAG tag (Hopp *et al.*,
1988) encoding the sequence MDYKDDDDK, and inserted into the eukaryotic expression
20 vector pcDNA3 (Invitrogen), such that the FLAG-PKR coding sequence was expressed
under the control of the CMV promoter.

The vector, termed pcDNA-FLAG-PKR, contains various features suitable for PKR
transcription, including: i) a promoter sequence from the immediate early gene of the
human CMV for high level mRNA expression; ii) a polyadenylation signal and transcription
25 termination sequence from the bovine growth hormone (BGH) gene to enhance mRNA
stability; iii) a SV40 origin for episomal replication and simple vector rescue; iv) an
ampicillin resistance gene and a ColE1 origin for selection and maintenance in *E. coli*; and
v) a G418 resistance marker (Neo) to allow for selection and identification of the plasmid-
containing eukaryotic cells after transfection.

30 A second PKR vector, designated pTRE-PKR, was prepared by inserting the same
PKR cDNA into a restriction/insertion site of a pTRE plasmid obtained from Clontech. The
pTRE plasmid is similar to the pFLAG used in making the first-described PKR vector, but
contains a tetracycline-responsive element upstream of the CMV promoter used to control
the inserted gene.

35

C. Preparation of the 6A Cell Line (Bcl-X_L and PKR positive)

The human B lymphoblastoid cell line Namalwa (WT) was transfected sequentially with the plasmids, pEF-FLAG-Bcl-X_L and pcDNA-FLAG-PKR. Stable transfectants were obtained by electroporation of 4x10⁶ exponentially growing Namalwa cells with 15µg of the pEF-FLAG-Bcl-X_L plasmid in DMEM/F12 (+10% FBS) using a Gene Pulser apparatus (BioRad) set at 800 uF, 300V. Bulk populations of stable transformants were obtained by selection with 2 µg/ml puromycin (Gibco-BRL) for 3-4 weeks and screened for Bcl-X_L expression by flow cytometry as follows. The bulk transfectants were washed, permeabilized with acetone and subsequently stained with 2 µg/ml mouse anti-FLAG M2 monoclonal antibody (IBI) and then with phycoerythrin conjugated goat anti-mouse IgG (1 µg/ml; Becton-Dickinson). Cells were analyzed in the FACScan, live and dead cells being discriminated on the basis of their forward and side light-scattering properties and Bcl-X_L expressing cells by their level of fluorescence intensity. High level Bcl-X_L expressing transformants (Namalwa-Bcl-X_L) were then transfected with pcDNA-FLAG-PKR.

Stable high level Bcl-X_L expressing transfectants were obtained by electroporation of 4x10⁶ exponentially growing Namalwa-Bcl-X_L cells with 15 µg of the pcDNA-FLAG-PKR plasmid in DMEM/F12 (+10% FBS) using a Gene Pulser apparatus (BioRad) set at 800µF, 300V. Bulk populations of stable transformants were obtained by selection with 2 mg/ml geneticin (G418, Gibco-BRL) for 3-4 weeks. Clonal lines were subsequently obtained by limiting dilution cloning and analyzed for Bcl-X_L and PKR expression by Western blot analysis (Huang *et al.*, 1997). The proteins were identified using 2 µg/ml anti-FLAG M2 antibody followed by goat anti-mouse IgG-peroxidase conjugate and ECL detection (Amersham). An exemplary Bcl-X_L and PKR positive cell line was designated 6A.

D. Preparation of the A9 Cell Line (PKR positive)

Stable high level PKR expressing transfectants were obtained by electroporation of 4x10⁶ exponentially growing Namalwa cells with 15 µg of the pTRE-PKR plasmid in DMEM/F12 (+10% FBS) using a Gene Pulser apparatus (BioRad) set at 800µF, 300V. Bulk populations of stable transformants were obtained by selection with 2 mg/ml geneticin (G418, Gibco-BRL) for 3-4 weeks. Clonal lines were subsequently obtained by limiting dilution cloning and analyzed for PKR expression by Western blot analysis (Huang *et al.*, 1997).

E. Characterization of a Transgenic Bcl-X_L- and PKR-Expressing Namalwa Cell Line

1. Increased Cell Viability

Wild type Namalwa cells (WT) and the A9 and 6A cells from Example 2C and 2D were examined for cell viability in culture under conditions of PKR overexpression and
5 cytokine induction. Specifically, PKR and Bcl-X_L double-transfected Namalwa cells (the 6A cell line), PKR-transfected Namalwa cells (the A9 cell line) and parental Namalwa cells (WT) were cultured at 2.5×10^5 cells/ml in DMEM/F12 medium supplemented with 10% FBS. The cells were treated with 20 mM PMA (priming agent) for 20 hr followed by
10 induction) for 72 hr or 200 HAU/ 1×10^6 cells of Sendai virus for 48 hr. Following treatment, cell viability was assessed by flow cytometry on a FACScan.

Figure 4A shows that following Sendai virus induction, cell viability was similar for the PKR-transfected Namalwa cells (the A9 cell line) and parental Namalwa cells (WT), with greater viability observed for the PKR and Bcl-X_L double-transfected Namalwa cells
15 (the 6A cell line).

Figure 4B shows that following poly IC induction, cell viability was similar for the PKR and Bcl-X_L double-transfected Namalwa cells (the 6A cell line) and parental Namalwa cells (WT), with lower viability observed for PKR-transfected Namalwa cells (the A9 cell line).

20 2. Increased Expression of Interferon- α

The level of IFN-alpha production was also analyzed in the three cell lines following cytokine induction by poly IC and Sendai virus, both under conditions of PKR overproduction. The culture supernatants were collected and analyzed for IFN-alpha levels by ELISA according to the procedure provided by the supplier of the ELISA kits (R&D
25 Systems).

The results shown in Fig. 5A indicate that following Sendai virus induction, IFN-alpha production by PKR and Bcl-X_L double-transfected Namalwa cells (the 6A cell line) was significantly greater than IFN-alpha production by PKR-transfected Namalwa cells (the A9 cell line) and parental Namalwa cells (WT).

30 The results shown in Fig. 5B indicate that following poly IC induction, IFN-alpha production by PKR-transfected Namalwa cells (the A9 cell line) and PKR and Bcl-X_L double-transfected Namalwa cells (the 6A cell line) was significantly greater than IFN-alpha production by parental Namalwa cells (WT).

EXAMPLE 3

Preparation and Cytokine Production by PKR-Overexpressing Namalwa Cell Lines

A. Preparation of Cytokine- and Therapeutic Protein-Overexpressing Namalwa Cell Lines

5 Wild type Namalwa cells were obtained from the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), 10801 University Blvd., Manassas, Va., U.S.A. These cells were cultured, subcloned, selected, primed and induced as detailed below.

Wild type Namalwa cells were cultured in DMEM/F12 medium containing fetal bovine serum with a range of concentrations of 0.5 to 15%. Individual cells were subjected
10 to limiting dilution cloning ("subcloning") by culturing in 96-well plates, using standard methods routinely employed by those of skill in the art. The subcloning step was carried out from 1 to 5 times and subclones were grown to obtain a population of approximately 0.3 to 0.5 million cells/ml using culture conditions typically employed to culture the parental cell line. Subclones were then assayed for PKR expression and activity by Northern blot,
15 Western blot, PKR autophosphorylation assay (Der and Lau Proc Natl Acad Sci 92: 8841-8845, 1995), an assay for histone phosphorylation using methods published for measuring eIF2 α phosphorylation (Zamanian-Daryoush, Der, Williams Oncogenes 18: 315-326, 1999), and a kinase assay (carried out by immunoprecipitation of PKR and *in vitro* assay for kinase activity (Zamanian-Daryoush, *et al.*, Molecular and Cellular Biology, 20:1278-
20 1290, 2000).

Subclones which exhibited at least 2-fold more kinase activity than the parental cell line were selected. Selected subclones were also screened for PKR production and/or expression by Western and Northern blot. Selected subclones were then induced to further enhance PKR and cytokine activity, production and/or expression, with or without
25 priming prior to induction.

Exemplary PKR overexpressing cell lines, designated Namalwa PKR++41027 cells, subclone: 2A1.D1.G7.C1.A9, and Namalwa PKR++41027 cells, subclone: 2A1.D1.G7.G3.C1 are used herein to illustrate the invention.

B. Characterization of the PKR-Overexpressing Namalwa Cells

30 1. Expression of TNF-beta, IL-6 and IL-8 By Subclones Of Namalwa PKR++41027 Cells

Namalwa PKR++41027 cells, subclone: 2A1.D1.G7.C1.A9 and WT Namalwa cells were pretreated with 20 nM phorbol myristate acetate at a cell density 5.0×10^5 cells/ml, in 6 well plates for 20hr. This was followed by treatment with 200 μ g/ml polyI:C for an
35 additional 72 hrs to induce cytokine expression. Culture supernatants from the treated

cells were removed at 24h, 48h, and 72 h post induction and evaluated for TNF-beta, IL-6 and IL-8 production via ELISA (R & D Systems).

Figure 6 illustrates enhanced TNF-beta, IL-6 and IL-8 production following poly I:C induction in Namalwa PKR++41027 cells, subclone: 2A1.D1.G7.C1.A9 relative to TNF-beta, IL-6 and IL-8 production by wild type Namalwa cells. The level of TNF-beta production was greatest at 72 hours post-induction, at which point the Namalwa PKR++41027 cells, subclone: 2A1.D1.G7.C1.A9 exhibited approximately 3 fold (3X) greater TNF-beta production than wild type Namalwa cells. Similarly at 72 hours post-induction with polyI:C, there was more than a 10-fold induction of IL-6 and IL-8 in the Namalwa PKR++41027 cells, subclone: 2A1.D1.G7.C1.A9 relative to that of the parental controls (Fig. 6).

2. Enhanced IFN-gamma Production in a Cytokine- and Therapeutic Protein-Over Expressing Cell Line

Namalwa PKR++ 41027 Cells, subclone: 2A1.D1.G7.G3.C1 were pretreated with 20 nM phorbol myristate acetate at a cell density 5.0×10^5 cells/ml in 6-well plates at 37 °C for 20 hr to prime cytokine expression. This treatment was followed by exposure to 100 µg/ml poly(I)poly(C) plus 10 ug/ml DEAE dextran for an additional 48 hrs to induce cytokine expression. Culture supernatants from the treated cells were removed at 48 hr post induction and evaluated for IFN-gamma expression and secretion by ELISA using a kit obtained from R & D Systems. The ELISA was performed according to the manufacturers directions.

3. Enhanced Production of Multiple Cytokines in a Cytokine- and Therapeutic Protein-Over Expressing Cell Line

Namalwa PKR++ 41027 Cells, subclone: 2A1.D1.G7.C1.A9 cultured in DME/F12 medium supplemented with 10% FBS were pretreated with 1 mM sodium butyrate at a cell density of 7 to 8×10^5 cells/ml in 6-well plates at 37 °C for 24 hr to prime cytokine expression. This treatment was followed by exposure to Sendai virus, 100 HA units for an additional 24 to 48 hr to induce cytokine expression. Culture supernatants from the treated cells were removed at 24 or 48 hr post induction and evaluated for cytokine or therapeutic protein expression and secretion by ELISA using kits obtained from R & D Systems according to the manufacturers directions. The results indicating the level of detected cytokines or therapeutic protein expression are provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Cytokine Or Other Therapeutic Protein Expression from Namalwa 41:027 Cells⁸

⁸All proteins measured from Namalwa PKR++41027 cells, subclone: 2A1.D1.G7.C1.A9

Cytokine/Other Therapeutic Protein	Level of Protein Expression¹ Induced / uninduced cells
IFN-alpha	180 ng/ml / Not done
IFN-beta	267 IU/ml / < 2.5 IU/ml
IFN-gamma	1.6 ng/ml / < 15 pg/ml
IL-1beta	< 4 pg/ml / < 4 pg/ml
IL-2	< 31 pg/ml / < 31 pg/ml
IL-4	12 pg/ml / 8 pg/ml
IL-6	31 pg/ml / < 3 pg/ml
IL-8	322 ng/ml / 54 ng/ml
IL-10	17 pg/ml / 5 pg/ml
GM-CSF	< 8 pg/ml / < 8 pg/ml
TNF-alpha	328 pg/ml / 2 pg/ml
TNF-beta	966 pg/ml / < 31 pg/ml
Basic FGF	< 10 pg/ml / < 10 pg/ml
PDGF-BB	< 31 pg/ml / < 31 pg/ml
VEGF	394 pg/ml / 677 pg/ml

5 except for IFN-gamma which was measured from Namalwa PKR++ 41027 Cells, subclone: 2A1.D1.G7.G3.C1.

EXAMPLE 4

Wild type (WT), CrmA or CrmA and PKR-expressing MG-63 cells were prepared
10 and treated to induce cytokine production as further described below.

A. MG-63 Cells Transfected With CrmA or CrmA and PKR Produce Mixtures of Cytokines

Human osteoblastoma MG-63 cells were obtained from ATCC and maintained in MEM supplemented with 5% FBS at 37 °C in the presence of 5% CO₂. THE MG-63 cells
15 were transfected with (1) PEF Flag-Crma (puromycin) plasmid (a gift from Dr. Strasser), for which a plasmid map and construction methods are described in Huang DC et al, (Oncogene 1997 Jan 30;14(4):405-14), using Lipofectamine (using the procedures suggested by the (manufacturer; Gibco- BRL). Individual cell clones were isolated by

¹The level of cytokine expression detected under any particular set of priming and induction conditions is not representative of the full complement nor the absolute level of cytokines a given cell line is capable of expressing. Parameters including but not limited to, the choice and concentration of priming and induction agent(s), incubation temperature, the media and media additives, pH, cell density, culture vessel configuration, aeration, stirring and other culture conditions could affect the final level of cytokine expression.

limiting dilution (3-5 cells/ml) and selection of individual antibiotic-resistant colonies using 96 well plates.

CrmA-expressing MG-63 cells were subsequently transfected with the pet V5-PKRwt plasmid (blasticidin; provided by Dr. Williams B.R.G.; Cleveland Clinic Foundation),
 5 using Lipofectamine (Gibco-BRL) and stable cell lines were selected in the presence of 1.5 µg/ml puromycin and 10 µg/ml blasticidin (Invitrogen Corporation, Carlsbad, California). Individual cell clones were isolated by limiting dilution (3-5 cells/ml) and selection of individual blasticidin-resistant colonies using 96-well plates. The expression of PKR was evaluated by Western blot using V5 epitope tagged antibodies (Invitrogen).

10 SI (superinduction) was performed as described by Inoue *et al.*, 1991. One day before superinduction, cells were seeded in 6-well plates and incubated at 37 °C in the presence of 5% CO₂. The next day, cells were primed with 100 IU/ml IFN-beta and 1 mM Na Butyrate. After 24 hrs., fresh medium containing polyI:C (100 µg/ml) and cycloheximide (5µg/ml) was added for 5 hrs. Actinomycin D was added during the last hour to a final
 15 concentration of 4 µg/ml. Then the cells were washed 3 times with PBS to remove all inducers and the medium was changed to MEM containing 5% serum. After incubation for 20 hrs, the medium was collected for cytokine analysis by ELISA, with assays performed according to the manufacturer's instructions (R&D Systems and BioSource International). The results of the analyses are presented in Table 3 which shows that of the cytokines
 20 analyzed, MG-63 cells express IFN beta, IL-6, IL-8, GM-CSF, G-CSF, FGF and VEGF.

Table 3. Cytokine Or Other Therapeutic Protein Expression from MG-63 Cells

Cytokine/Other Therapeutic Protein	Level of Protein Expression	Gene(s) Introduced Into MG-63 Cells
IFN-beta	125,000 IU/ml per 10 ⁶ cells 160,000 IU/ml per 10 ⁶ cells	CrmA CrmA/PKR
IL-6	40 ng/ml per 10 ⁶ cells 40 ng/ml per 10 ⁶ cells	CrmA CrmA/PKR
IL-8	340 ng/ml per 10 ⁶ cells 622 ng/ml per 10 ⁶ cells	CrmA CrmA/PKR
GM-CSF	340 pg/ml/10 ⁶ cells 800 pg/ml/10 ⁶ cells	CrmA CrmA/PKR
G-CSF	104 pg/ml 117 pg/ml	CrmA CrmA/PKR
FGF	13 pg/ml	CrmA
VEGF	44 pg/ml	CrmA

EXAMPLE 5**Expression Analysis**

The cytokine expression profile of Namalwa PKR++41027 cells, subclone: 2A1.D1.G7.C1.A9 was determined using an Affymetrix (Santa Clara, CA) human Gene
 5 chip as described in PNAS 1998, 95:15623-15628.

RNA was prepared for expression analysis from Namalwa PKR++ 41027 Cells, subclone: 2A1.D1.G7.C1.A9 cultured in DME/F12 medium supplemented with 10% FBS in roller bottles. The cells were primed with 1mM sodium butyrate at a cell density of 7 to 8 x10⁵ cells/ml at 37 °C for 24 hr., centrifuged at 1200 rpm and resuspended at a density of 1
 10 x 10⁷ cells per ml in fresh growth medium with 1% FBS. This treatment was followed by exposure to Sendai virus, 100 HA units for an additional 60 to 90 min followed by the addition of a 3-fold volume of fresh medium and a 48 hr incubation to induce cytokine expression. Cells were harvested at the end of the treatment to prepare RNA for gene chip
 15 analysis by the single-step acid guanidinium thiocyanate/phenol/chloroform extraction method as described in Anal. Biochemistry 162, 156-159 (1987).

Table 4. Results of Gene Chip expression of A9 (PKR-transfected) Namalwa cells following induction

Protein	Avg Diff	Description of Protein
Apoptosis-related protein	1,218	Cluster including AF022385:Homo sapiens apoptosis-related protein TFAR15 (TFAR15) mRNA
BMP 11	513.9	Cluster including AF100907:Homo sapiens bone morphogenetic protein 11 (BMP11) mRNA
Caspase-like apoptosis regulatory protein 2	1,390	AF005775 Homo sapiens caspase-like apoptosis regulatory protein 2 (clarp) mRNA, alternatively spliced
CD27	18,475	Cluster including M63928:Homo sapiens T cell activation antigen (CD27) mRNA
CD27L	17,166	Cluster including L08096:Human CD27 ligand mRNA
Chemokine	3,006	D43767=HUMAR Human mRNA for chemokine
Chemokine (TECK)	611.5	Cluster including U86358:Human chemokine (TECK) mRNA
Death domain containing prot CRADD	795	U84388=HSU84388 Human death domain containing protein CRADD mRNA
EGF	813	X04571=HSEGFRE Human mRNA for kidney epidermal growth factor (EGF) precursor
FGF 18	309	Cluster including AF075292:Homo sapiens fibroblast growth factor 18 (FGF18) mRNA
Gastrin-releasing peptide	223	K02054 /FEATURE=mRNA /DEFINITION=HUMGRP5E Human gastrin-releasing peptide mRNA, complete cds
GH-1/GH-2/CS-1/CS-2	9,416	Cluster including J03071:Human growth hormone (GH-1 and GH-2) and chorionic somatomammotropin (CS-1, CS-2 and CS-5) genes

Heat shock factor 1	2,313	Cluster including M64673:Human heat shock factor 1 (TCF5) mRNA
Heat shock factor 1	1655.3	M64673=HUMHSF1 Human heat shock factor 1 (TCF5) mRNA
Heat shock factor 2	567	Cluster including M65217:Human heat shock factor 2 (HSF2) mRNA
Hepatoma-derived growth factor	2,910	Cluster including D16431:Human mRNA for hepatoma-derived growth factor
HGF-like protein	684	Cluster including U28055:Homo sapiens hepatocyte growth factor-like protein homolog mRNA
HSP 70	21,120	Heat Shock Protein, 70 Kda
HSP 70	11,072	Heat Shock Protein, 70 Kda
HSP 70	858	L12723=HUMHSP70H Human heat shock protein 70 (hsp70) mRNA
HSP 70B	508	X51757 /FEATURE=cds /DEFINITION=HSP70B Human heat-shock protein HSP70B gene
HSP 90	16,057	Cluster including M16660:Human 90-kDa heat-shock protein gene
HSP 90	13,458	Cluster including X15183:Human mRNA for 90-kDa heat-shock protein
HSP E	2238.2	Cluster including L08069:Human heat shock protein, E. coli
IFN-a	9,344	M28585=HUMIFNN Human leukocyte interferon-alpha mRNA
IFN-a	8,053	J00207=HUMIFNAA Human leukocyte interferon (leif) alpha-a gene
IFN-a a	2817.8	J00207=HUMIFNAA Human leukocyte interferon (leif) alpha-a gene
IFN-a	2,019	Cluster including V00541:Messenger RNA for human leukocyte interferon
IFN-a d	9,300	J00210=HUMIFNAD Human leukocyte interferon (IFN-alpha) alpha-d gene
IFN-a5	2,522	X02956=HSIFNA5 Human interferon alpha gene IFN-alpha 5
IFN-a6	1345.6	X02958=HSIFNA6 Human interferon alpha gene IFN-alpha 6
IFN-a-M1	6,154	M27318=HUMIFNAM1 Human interferon (IFN-alpha-M1) mRNA
IFN-b	8,284	V00535=HSIFD6 Gene for human fibroblast interferon beta 1
IFN-g	6,263	Cluster including L07633:Homo sapiens (clone 1950.2) interferon-gamma IEF SSP 5111 mRNA
IFN-g	152	Cluster including X13274:Human mRNA for interferon IFN-gamma
IFN-omega	2,356	Cluster including X58822:Human IFN-omega 1 gene for interferon-omega 1
IGF-II	1,217	M13970=HUMGFI21 Human insulin-like growth factor (IGF-II) gene, exon 1 of 4
IL-1b	291	Cluster including M15330:Human interleukin 1-beta (IL1B)
IL-1R2	1,522	X59770=HSIL1R2II H. sapiens IL-1R2 mRNA for type II interleukin-1 receptor
IL-1ra	1,816	Cluster including X52015:H.sapiens mRNA for interleukin-1 receptor antagonist
IL-3	171	M20137=HUMIL3A Human interleukin 3 (IL-3) mRNA
IL-4	349	M13982=HUMIL4 Human interleukin 4 (IL-4) mRNA
Inhibitor of apoptosis protein 1	11,479	U45878=HSU45878 Human inhibitor of apoptosis protein 1 mRNA
Lipocortin 2	13253.2	Cluster including M62895:Human lipocortin (LIP) 2 pseudogene mRNA

Lipocortin II	11,053	D00017=HUMLIC Homo sapiens mRNA for lipocortin II
Macrophage-derived chemokine	5,397	Cluster including U83171:Human macrophage-derived chemokine precursor (MDC) mRNA
MIF	21,100	L19686=HUMMIF Homo sapiens macrophage migration inhibitory factor (MIF) gene
Monocyte-specific enhancer factor	1,520	Cluster including U49020:Human myocyte-specific enhancer factor 2A (MEF2A) gene
Myelin-assoc oligoden. basic prot	334	Cluster including D28113:Human mRNA for MOBP (myelin-associated oligodendrocytic basic protein)
Myocyte-specific enhancer factor	1520.2	Cluster including U49020:Human myocyte-specific enhancer factor 2A (MEF2A) gene
NK enhancing factor	2,529	Cluster including L19185:Human natural killer cell enhancing factor (NKEFB) mRNA
Oral tumor suppressor protein (doc-1)	4923.8	Cluster including AF006484:Homo sapiens putative oral tumor suppressor protein (doc-1) mRNA
Osteogenic protein	2356.6	Cluster including X51801:Human OP-1 mRNA for osteogenic protein
PK inhibitor	158.4	Cluster including S76965:protein kinase inhibitor [human, neuroblastoma cell line SH-SY-5Y
PK inhibitor gamma	846.1	Cluster including AB019517:Homo sapiens PKIG mRNA for protein kinase inhibitor gamma
PKCI-1	12,528	U51004=HSU51004 Homo sapiens protein kinase C inhibitor (PKCI-1)
Pre-B cell enhancing factor	733	Cluster including U02020:Human pre-B cell enhancing factor (PBEF) mRNA
Prothymosin alpha	5,279	Cluster including M14630:Human prothymosin alpha mRNA
RANTES	22,392	M21121=HUMTCSM Human T cell-specific protein (RANTES) mRNA
RANTES	11,265	M21121 /FEATURE= /DEFINITION=HUMTCSM Human T cell-specific protein (RANTES) mRNA
RANTES	1464.2	M21121=HUMTCSM Human T cell-specific protein (RANTES) mRNA
SOD3	848	J02947=HUMSODEC Human extracellular-superoxide dismutase (SOD3) mRNA
sVEGF R (sflt)	645	U01134=U01134 Human soluble vascular endothelial cell growth factor receptor (sflt) mRNA
TGF-b	3,899	M38449=HUMTGFB Human transforming growth factor-beta mRNA
Thymosin beta-10	17,132	Cluster including M92383:Homo sapiens thymosin beta-10 gene
Thymosin beta-4	19,683	Cluster including M17733:Human thymosin beta-4 mRNA
Thymosin beta 4	915	Cluster including AF000989:Homo sapiens thymosin beta 4 Y isoform (TB4Y) mRNA
TNF/LT	1,392	M16441=HUMTNFAB Human tumor necrosis factor and lymphotoxin genes
TNF/LT	933	M16441=HUMTNFAB Human tumor necrosis factor and lymphotoxin genes
TNF-b	5,506	Cluster including D12614:Human mRNA for lymphotoxin (TNF-beta)
TRAIL	6878.2	U37518=HSU37518 Human TNF-related apoptosis inducing ligand TRAIL mRNA
TRAMP	5,480	Cluster including X63679:H.sapiens mRNA for TRAMP protein
VEGF	2,444	Cluster including U43368:Human VEGF related factor isoform VRF186 precursor (VRF) mRNA

From the foregoing, it can be seen how various objects and features of the invention are met. Those skilled in the art can now appreciate from the foregoing description that the broad teachings of the present invention can be implemented in a variety of forms. Therefore, while this invention has been described in connection with 5 particular embodiments and examples thereof, it will be appreciated that various changes and modification may be made without departing from the invention as claimed.

IT IS CLAIMED:

1. A composition comprising a mixture of human cytokines produced by:
 - (a) culturing a human cell line capable of producing a mixture of cytokines, said cell line characterized by overexpression of a cytokine regulatory factor;
 - 5 (b) treating the cytokine regulatory factor-overexpressing cell line to effect enhanced production of a mixture of cytokines; and
 - (c) collecting the cytokines produced by the cultured, cytokine regulatory factor-overexpressing cell line.
- 10 2. The composition of claim 1, wherein said cytokine regulatory factor overexpressing cell line is generated by transformation with a cytokine regulatory factor-encoding nucleic acid sequence.
3. The composition of claim 1, wherein said cytokine regulatory factor
15 overexpressing human cell line is generated by subcloning and selection.
4. The composition of claim 1, wherein treating means priming.
5. The composition of claim 1, wherein treating means priming and induction.
20
6. The composition of claim 1, wherein collecting means fractionating the produced cytokines by copurifying selected cytokines.
7. The composition of claim 1, for use in cancer treatment, wherein the cytokines
25 produced include two or more cytokines selected from the group consisting of interleukin-2 (IL-2), interleukin-12 (IL-12), interleukin-15 (IL-15), interferon-alpha (IFN-alpha), interferon-beta (IFN-beta), interferon-gamma (IFN-gamma), interferon-omega (IFN-omega), tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF-alpha), natural killer enhancing factor (NKEF), natural killer cell stimulatory factor (NKSF), TNF-related-apoptosis-inducing-ligand (TRAIL) and granulocyte
30 macrophage colony-stimulating factor (GM-CSF).
8. The composition of claim 1, for use in treating viral infection, wherein the cytokines produced include two or more cytokines selected from the group consisting of
interferon-alpha (IFN-alpha), interferon-beta (IFN-beta), interferon-gamma (IFN-gamma),
35 interferon-omega (IFN-omega), transforming growth factor beta (TGF-beta), interleukin-8

(IL-8), interleukin-12 (IL-12) and granulocyte macrophage colony-stimulating factor (GM-CSF).

9. The composition of claim 1, for use in treating an inflammatory condition, wherein
5 the cytokines produced include two or more cytokines selected from the group consisting of interleukin-4 (IL-4), interleukin-5 (IL-5), interleukin-6 (IL-6), interleukin-10 (IL-10), interferon-beta (IFN-beta), interferon-gamma (IFN-gamma) and transforming growth factor beta (TGF-beta).

10 10. A composition comprising a mixture of human cytokines produced by:
(a) culturing a human cell line capable of producing a mixture of cytokines, said cell line characterized by overexpression of an anti-apoptotic protein;
(b) treating the anti-apoptotic overexpressing-overexpressing cell line to effect enhanced production of a mixture of cytokines; and
15 (c) collecting the cytokines produced by the cultured, anti-apoptotic overexpressing-overexpressing cell line.

11. The composition of claim 10, wherein said anti-apoptotic overexpressing-overexpressing human cell line is modified or selected to obtain a cell line further
20 characterized by overexpression of a cytokine regulatory factor.

12. The composition of claim 11, wherein said anti-apoptotic protein and cytokine regulatory factor overexpressing cell line is generated by transformation with a cytokine regulatory factor-encoding nucleic acid sequence.

25 13. The composition of claim 11, wherein anti-apoptotic protein and cytokine regulatory factor overexpressing cell line is generated by subcloning and selection.

14. A method for producing a mixture of human cytokines in cell culture,
30 comprising:
(a) culturing a human cell line capable of producing the mixture of human cytokines;
(b) selecting or modifying the cultured human cell line wherein a cytokine regulatory factor is overexpressed by the cell line;

- (c) treating said cultured, cytokine regulatory factor-overexpressing cell line to effect cytokine production; and
- (d) collecting the cytokines produced by the cultured, treated cell line.

5 15. The method of claim 16, wherein the cytokine regulatory factor overexpressing cell line is generated by transformation with a cytokine regulatory factor-encoding nucleic acid sequence.

10 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the cytokine regulatory factor overexpressing human cell line is generated by subcloning and selection.

 17. The method of claim 15, wherein the cytokine regulatory factor overexpressing cell line is further modified to express an anti-apoptotic protein.

15 18. The method of claim 17, wherein treating means priming.

 19. The method of claim 17, wherein treating means priming and induction.

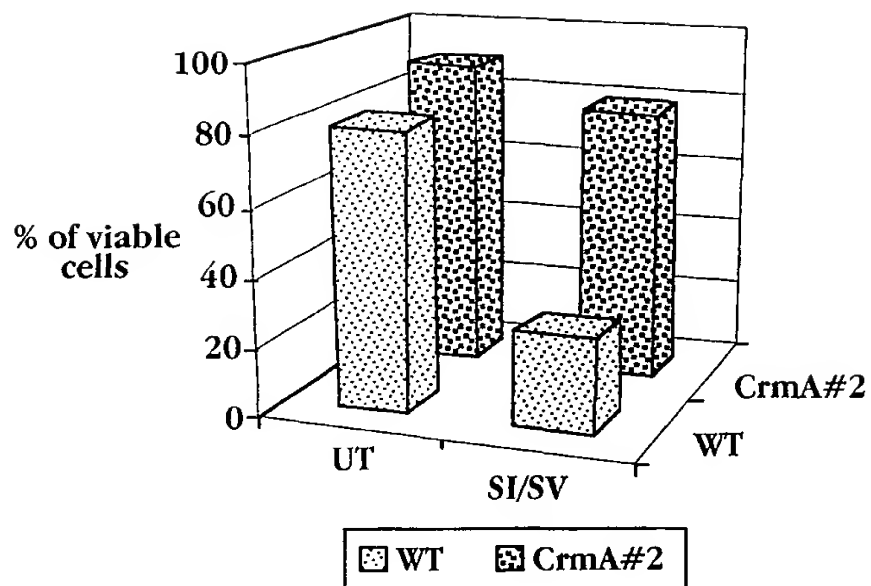
20 20. The method of claim 19, wherein the cytokine(s) are selected from the group consisting of

 (a) two or more of interleukin-2 (IL-2), interleukin-12 (IL-12), interleukin-15 (IL-15), interferon-alpha (IFN-alpha), interferon-beta (IFN-beta), interferon-gamma (IFN-gamma), interferon-omega (IFN-omega), tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF-alpha), natural killer enhancing factor (NKEF), natural killer cell stimulatory factor (NKSF),
25 TNF-related-apoptosis-inducing-ligand (TRAIL) and granulocyte macrophage colony-stimulating factor (GM-CSF), for use in cancer treatment;

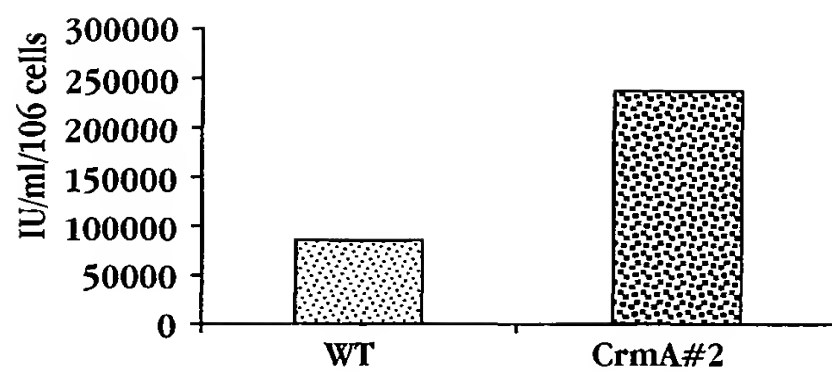
 (b) two or more of interferon-alpha (IFN-alpha), interferon-beta (IFN-beta), interferon-gamma (IFN-gamma) interferon-omega (IFN-omega), transforming growth factor beta (TGF-beta), interleukin-8 (IL-8), interleukin-12 (IL-12) and granulocyte macrophage
30 colony-stimulating factor (GM-CSF), for use in treating viral infection; and

 (c) two or more of interleukin-4 (IL-4), interleukin-5 (IL-5), interleukin-6 (IL-6), interleukin-10 (IL-10), interferon-beta (IFN-beta), interferon-gamma (IFN-gamma) and transforming growth factor beta (TGF-beta) for use in treating inflammatory conditions.

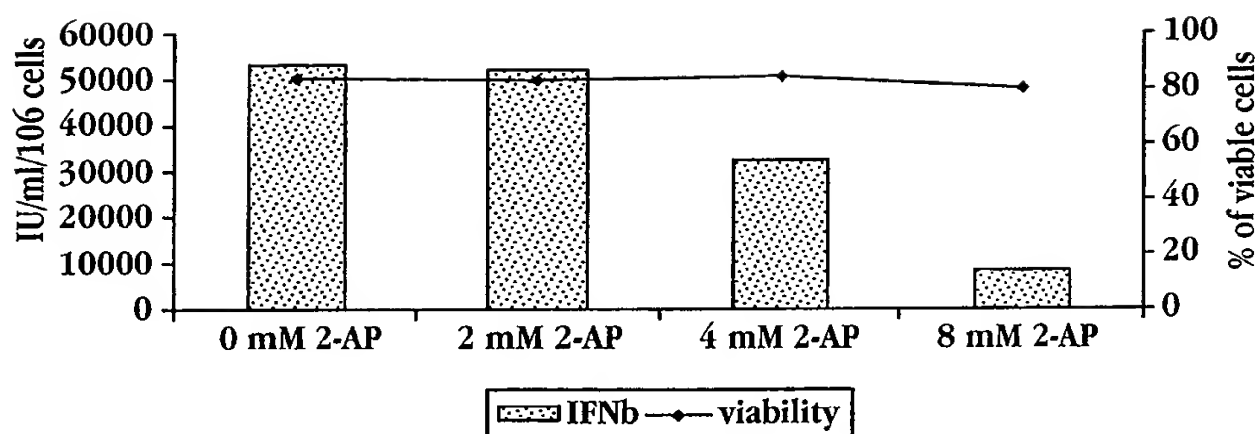
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**Fig. 1**

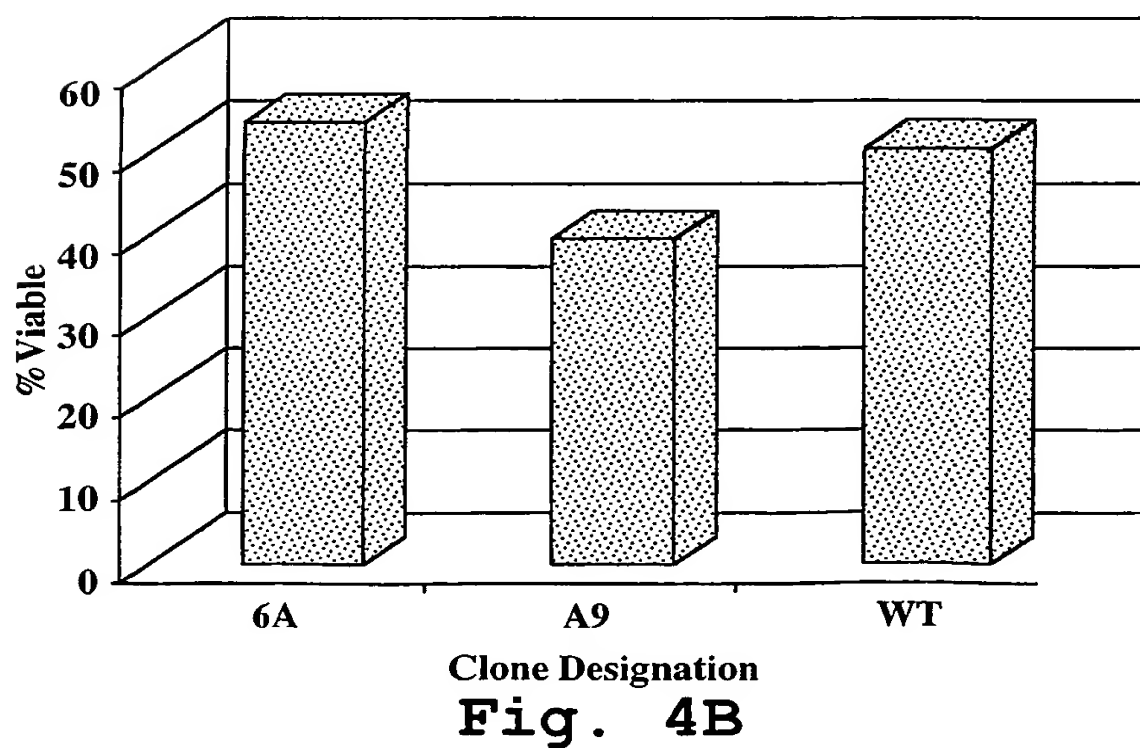
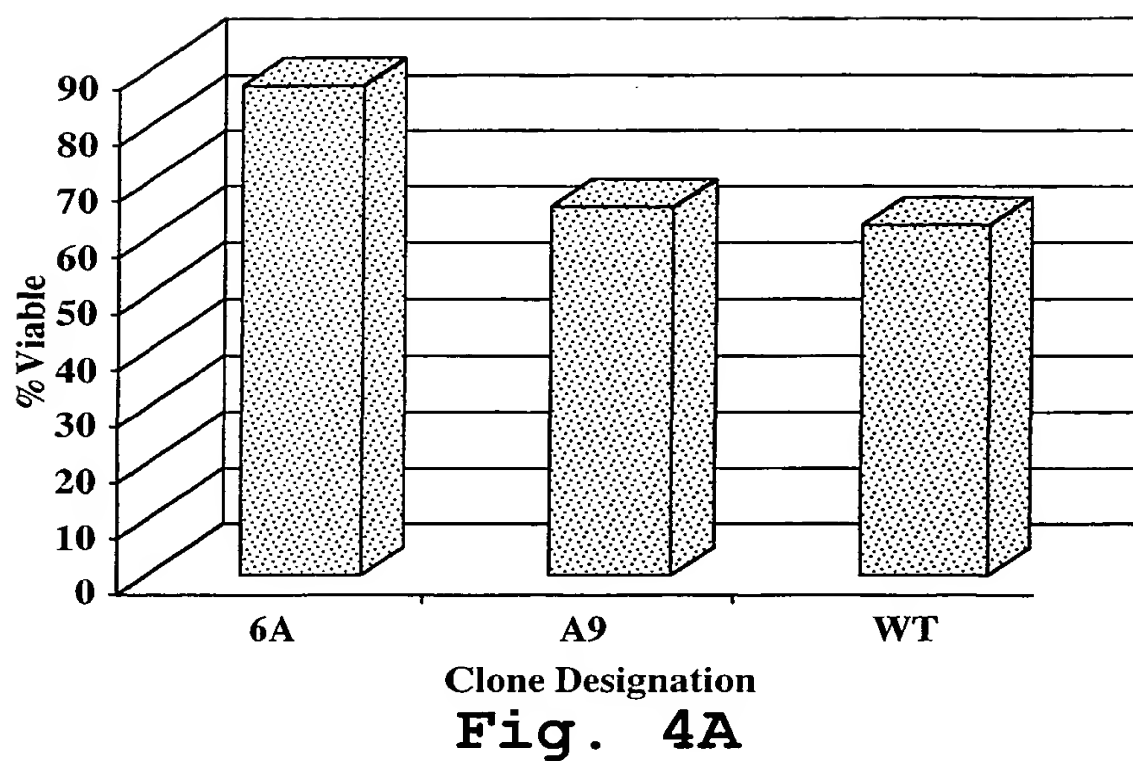
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**Fig. 2**

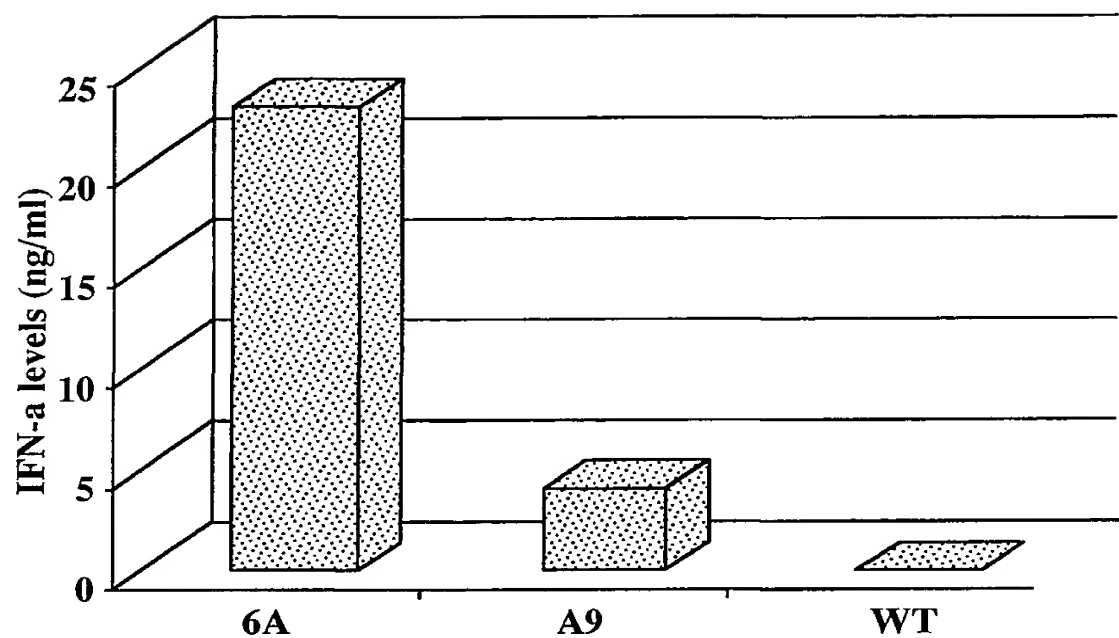
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**Fig. 3**

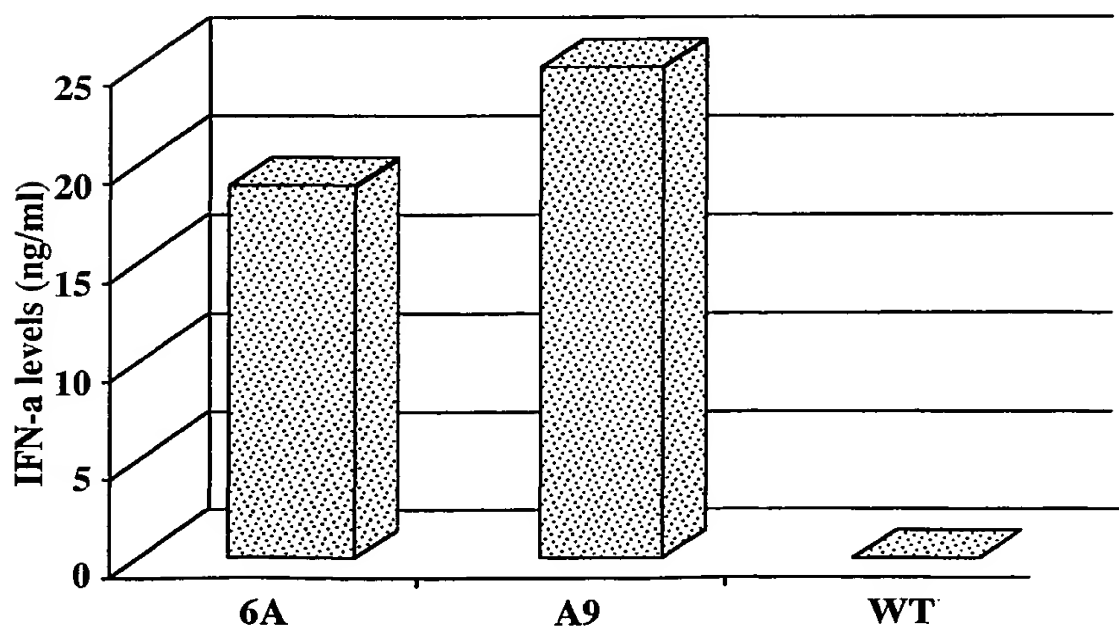
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Clone Designation
Fig. 5A



Clone Designation
Fig. 5B

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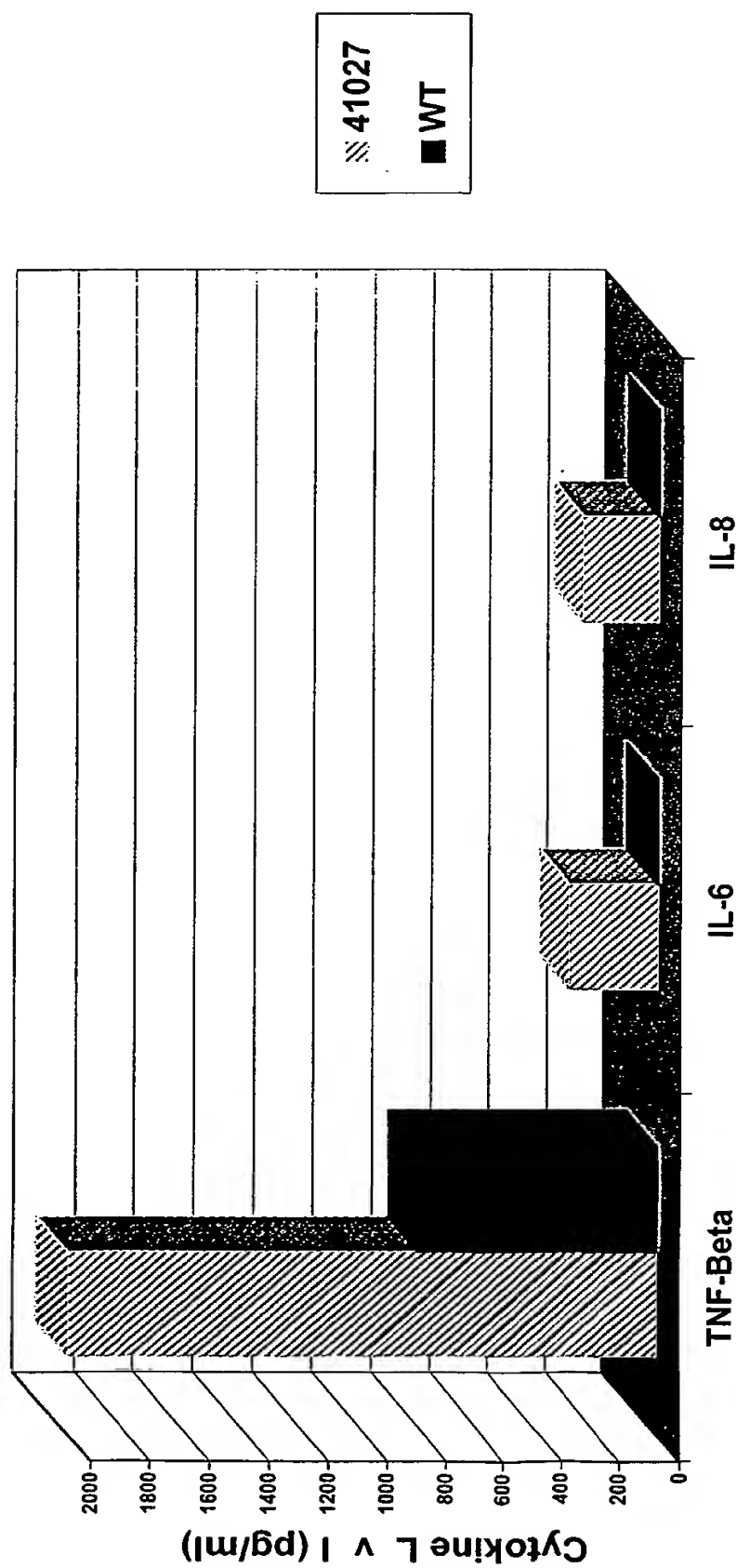


Fig. 6

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- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*



WO 02/22848 A3

(54) Title: COMPOSITIONS COMPRISING MIXTURES OF HUMAN CYTOKINES AND METHODS OF PRODUCING THE SAME

(57) Abstract: Human cytokine mixtures produced by cytokine regulatory factor-overexpressing cells and methods of production are disclosed. The mixtures are prepared by culturing human cytokine-producing cells under conditions of cytokine regulatory factor overexpression, treating the cells to induce cytokine production, and isolating the mixtures of cytokines produced by the cells.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 01/28711

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, BIOSIS, WPI Data, PAJ

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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

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International Application No
PCT/US 01/28711

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